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THURSDAY MARCH 23RD, 2017

British Summer Time starts at 2am this Sunday.
REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR!

NATIONAL PET MONTH & RURAL LIFE IN THE VALE

Collapsed scrums. A dodgy substitution. It's Wales v France in the Six Nations.
BACK PAGE RUGBY COMMENT

Tournament heralded the opening of new courts!

TWT PARK FIND IS 'NOT ACCEPTABLE'

MOST people are used to finding the occasional empty crisp packet or drinks can thoughtlessly discarded in a public space.

However unnecessary, unpleasant and untidy that may be, a discovery on Saturday, March 11 in the children's area at Twt Park, went beyond the pale and shocked the usually unflappable amenities supervisor for Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council.

He was cleaning the play equipment and surroundings, as well as emptying bins, when he discovered – in the small children's activity house – human excrement. He cleaned the mess and disinfected the play equipment and the activity house.

David Morris, Town Clerk for Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, told The GEM: "We have reported to the police a number of incidents that have occurred in Twt Park late in the evening, especially at weekends, with persons drinking alcohol and leaving the bottles, some of which are broken on the play area ground and benches.

"There has also been damage to the equipment and now human excrement left there."

Mr Morris said that such behaviour is "not acceptable in a civilised society." He added: "The Town Council asks all members of the community to treat the park and play equipment with respect.

"Twt Park is there for the benefit of all members of the community and its facilities should not be spoilt due to the anti-social behaviour of a few individuals."

COWBRIDGE Tennis Club recently held a tournament to celebrate the opening of the newly-laid tennis courts and new floodlighting.

The official opening cutting of the red ribbon was carried out by the oldest member, Peter Launder, and the youngest, Gracie Duggan.

A spokesperson said: "A great day was had by all, with three tournaments for the senior and one for the juniors.

"The club has a thriving membership and there are opportunities for all to play.

"We have three men's and two ladies' teams about to embark on the summer league season, having just finished a very enjoyable winter league season. (Keep an eye out in The GEM for match reports this summer).

"This year, we are entering junior tennis teams in leagues as a result of our popular free coaching sessions for junior members every Saturday at 4pm.

"Coaching is led by our resident coach with many keen members helping.

"We are a friendly, family-orientated club and are always welcoming new members."

More detailed information is available on the website http://cltc.webs.com/ or please call coach Ian Duggan on 07919 816609."

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BUILDING SOCIETY TO CLOSE

The Cowbridge branch of the Yorkshire Building Society is set to close on May 19.

A spokesperson for the society said that it was due to an increasing number of customers going on line and not visiting their local branch.

However, Vale AM Jane Hutt says that she has been contacted by constituents and, as a result, will be contacting the society to oppose the closure.

For a full report, see page 6.

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Penarth's Oxfam shop needs vinyl!

IN the last four months, the Oxfam shop in Penarth has exceeded all previous music sales.

Between November 2016 and February 2017, a total of over £7,000 was achieved on all music sales, with vinyl the most popular choice of customers.

We have been overwhelmed by the response to our revamped vinyl section in the shop and LPs of all genres have been selling extremely well.

Anyone who has vinyl records of any kind that they would like to donate to Oxfam, can drop their donations at the shop in Windsor Street, Penarth.

We also welcome donations of CDs, music books, sheet music and musical instruments.

A didgeridoo was recently sold in the shop!

Large collections can be picked up by arrangement, by calling 02920 706358.

Caroline Mumford
(shop manager)

Rocky road to the dump

SO, the long-running saga of the access road to the Llandow recycling centre continues.

The issue has appeared in The GEM many times, but Mr Dew's latest intervention is timely in that the state of the road has deteriorated to the extent of putting the safety of personnel and vehicles at risk.

I am sure we all agree with the sentiments expressed by Mr Dew, but what did amaze me was the response from the local authority to this disgracefully maintained industrial estate.

I would have thought the council's response might have been along the lines of: "We are fully aware of the appalling state of the access road to the Llandow recycling centre and apologise for the difficulty it poses.

"Having tried and failed to persuade the owners to satisfactorily repair the road, we will now look to find a solution which will make your experience in visiting a recycling site more user-friendly.

"To this end, we are looking at alternative sites near to Llantwit Major. May we thank you for your efforts in helping us to reach our recycling targets."

What did we get? "We don't own it, so not much we can do about it." Pathetic.

Maybe, though, we are asking too much of the responsible cabinet members to find a solution. Maybe it's just filed in the 'too difficult' tray!

It could be, of course, that if they are the same people who are responsible for the pothole-riddled roads in the Vale, they may consider the Llandow site road acceptable, anyway!

Oh well, rant over; must go now as next year's council tax bill has just arrived in the post and I'm opening it... Ouch! How much?!

Chris Coade,
St Athan.

Town Clerk replies to questions over
Fair charges for all at Cowbridge Town Hall

MASONIC lodges, which have used the Cowbridge Town Hall since 1925, still pay only £1.67 per week rent for exclusive use of their room.

At their February meeting, the Town Council's Finance and General Purposes committee was recommending only a three per cent increase in line with other hirings, that is 5p per week!

Any other upstairs annexe room is currently charged at £25 per session to other users.

Following intervention from a former Mayor, the matter was referred back to the March committee meeting which was held recently.

Jane Hydon

DAVID MORRIS, Town Clerk of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, responds to the letter:

We have six Masonic Lodges that hire the Main Hall paying the same rate as any other hirer.

That is, from April 1, when Council agreed the three per cent increase in fees, the normal hire of the Main Hall will be:

Week days - £51.50 for up to three hours and thereafter £18.00 each additional hour.

Weekends - £67.00 for up to three hours and thereafter £26.00 per hour.

For commercial businesses that wish to hire the Main Hall or even the Lesser hall there is an additional 50% surcharge on the hire rates.

In addition to paying for the hire of the Main Hall, the Council also charge each Masonic Lodge a fee for using the store room to store equipment; this does not mean that other equipment cannot be stored there. They do not have exclusive rights to the store room.

Each Lodge pays £23.00 per quarter i.e. for the six Lodges or £138 per quarter, which is £552.00 pa. The six Masonic Lodges have had meetings in the Town Hall since 1925 and currently pay just under £6,000.00 pa in hire fees.

They have also helped and contributed to the upkeep of the Town Hall in other ways, e.g. refurbishment of the stage, purchased a defibrillator for the Town Hall.

The current fee that they pay for the storage of equipment is subject to review in line with the increase in hire charges for the Main Hall/Lesser Hall i.e. for 2017/18 - 3 per cent increase would be £568.56 pa.

It must also be pointed out that the Town Council have many other organisations/community groups who hire and use the Town Hall, for which no charge is made for them to store equipment/utensils etc.

For example:
RVS – four cupboards in Lesser Hall Kitchen
Y Bont Faen WI – one cupboard in Lesser Hall Kitchen
Museum – A wooden cupboard in corridor
U3A – Boards on the stage. Mugs and hot plate in cupboard in Annexe Kitchen
Twinning Association – Plates/bowls stored in cupboard opposite ground floor store room.
Charter Trust – Mugs in cell, Mayor's Parlour.
Country Market – Cupboard under the stairs from the Lesser Hall Lounge area.
Senior Citizens – Metal cupboard in corridor.
Royal British Legion – Store the Remembrance wreaths from September to November in Town Hall.

Only the six Masonic Lodges pay a fee for storing their equipment in the Store Room.

The Town Council are very much aware that the Town Hall is a community asset and actively encourage the community to use its facilities, but also recognise that they are responsible for its maintenance and upkeep as well as paying for utilities and business rates, which, as a Listed Historic Building, can be quite expensive.

The Town Clerk has been asked by the Town Council to review its policy on hiring out the facilities of the Town Hall to ensure that it is fair, equitable and transparent.

I note that the member of the public who has raised this issue was herself a Town Councillor and Past Mayor.

If she is aggrieved at the current policies of the Town Council, which have developed from her time on the Council, why wasn't this matter raised by her as a member of the council and addressed at that time?

'Is anyone monitoring health problems after Llandow fires?'

RECENTLY, there has been another fire on Llandow and we were warned to avoid the area and keep our windows closed.

I have been an in-patient at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend and whilst there last week, a gentleman from St Mary Church was on my ward.

He had been admitted for serious breathing problems, possibly linked to the incident. Also, I was speaking with a lady who had a similar problem and had been admitted to hospital.

I would like to know if someone from the Department of Health or any other appropriate organisation is collating data from anyone who may have been affected by the smoke?

As a community, we should be opposing a licence for any site operator, as in my opinion, the depositing of rubbish on Llandow is causing serious issues for people's health.

The storage of rubbish on Llandow must be stopped as there have been too many outbreaks of fire.

David Watson
Llantwit Major.

'Dinas bypass campaign non-political?'

I DON'T often put pen to paper, but I feel incensed at the vitriolic tactics employed in the media relating to transport issues in Dinas Powys.

The Dinas Powys Tories assured everyone that their bypass campaign is non-political, but when a Plaid councillor asked at a meeting if he could join the steering group, he was told emphatically by Tory councillors that he could not.

I, like many other Plaid members have signed the petition, and would have willingly helped out had we been allowed to join with them.

In the leaflet delivered by the Tories recently, they finally admit that the campaign is a political one, as it also does on Facebook.

Plaid willingly and regularly 'trudge' (the word used in the letter) the streets to keep in touch with residents throughout the four or five years of the council term, not just in the few months before the elections. The Tories don't seem to understand that it was Labour in their Local Development Plan, and Tories in their version of the Local Development Plan, who refused to put the bypass into the document.

It's worth remembering that Plaid proposed that the bypass should be included in the list of priorities in the Vale's Local Transport Plan.

This was opposed by the Conservatives.

They also backed the Local Development Plan that will result in 10,000 extra houses being built, with no significant improvements in transport infrastructure.

Plaid did not support this irresponsible policy.

At a recent Vale Council meeting, a Tory member was heard to say "a link road through from the A48 towards the M4 would be more use than a Dinas Powys bypass".

The Vale Tories don't seem to be on the same hymn sheet as their local councillors!

Mrs Val Hartrey,
Dinas Powys.
(Plaid Cymru ward member, Dinas Powys).

'MP should seek a new mandate from local voters'

Re-elected in 2015 as a disciple of David Cameron, we have already seen our MP betray those who voted for him.

An honourable person would call a by-election to allow the Vale to select a suitable candidate to represent their views in Westminster.

Alun supported his leader, campaigning to remain in the EU – as did the majority of his party's MPs, yet now he is right behind another Remainer, Theresa May, in promoting something he thought was so wrong.

He states a childlike belief in a strong plan for a smooth and orderly Brexit, controlling migration (note not reducing) and protecting workers' rights!

David Cameron said he would still lead us through Brexit....and then resigned, to be replaced by another Remainer who had led the Home Office through a period of failed migration manifesto promises!

Nobody would believe it if you made it up.

Conservative manifesto commitments have been published and then casually torn up: No income tax, NI or VAT tax increases to 2020 (a ridiculous promise but used as an election bribe); a minimum wage of £9 by 2020 (now not planned); commitment to the Single Market abandoned, although possible within Brexit; and several issues within the NHS, social care and education sectors.

Resign, Alun, and let your voters decide. It will be a great opportunity to get a mandate for all your 'new' views and rebuild trust with the voters in the Vale.

Steve Reed,
Rhoose

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News Submissions: editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
Editor Don John: don.john@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
Tim Chapman tim.chapman@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER *@TimGlamorganGEM*
Philip Irwin philip.irwin@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER *@PhilipGlamGEM*
Advertising/Distribution/Classified/Notices: sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
Sales Manager: jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk • **Sales:** wendy.snatchfold@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
vanessa.james@glamorgan-gem.co.uk • aimee.wilson@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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Llandow fire finally quelled after two weeks

THE fire at a waste storage facility based at Llandow was finally extinguished two weeks after it began.

by GEM REPORTER
If you have a story, please email: editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk; or call 01446 774484

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service finally left the scene of the fire on Thursday, March 16, having declared the incident closed. It had started on Thursday, March 2.

Dewi Rose, of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: "Throughout the incident, we put in place close working operations with Siteserve demolition personnel, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Water and other stakeholders in order to extinguish the fire, reduce air pollution, minimise the risk to the local community, protect the environment and allow business continuity in the greater Llandow area.

"I want to thank the crews from across the service for their professional and committed approach to tackling the incident for its duration, as well as to the site owners and our partner agencies for their support in bringing this incident to a close."

Although the fire is now extinguished smoke from the site has not yet fully dispersed and may still be visible in the surrounding area.

During the course of the multiagency response the Public Health Wales Environmental Public Health Team advised anyone experiencing coughing, wheezing, breathlessness or chest pain after exposure to the smoke that these symptoms should pass quickly.

However, if symptoms did persist or local residents were concerned about their health then they should contact their GP or call NHS Direct 0845 4647.

It is not expected that exposure to the smoke will lead to any long-term health problems.

Natural Resources Wales initially served a suspension notice as an emergency response to prevent further waste coming to the site. This has now been partially lifted for some pre-segregated recyclate waste to be accepted at the site.

Nadia De Longhi, operations manager for Natural Resources Wales, said: "We play a key role in keeping communities safe. Our regulatory controls remain in place to ensure the operator takes the necessary steps to protect people and the environment.

"We will now undertake a full investigation, in cooperation with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, and consider any appropriate enforcement action."

All local roads have now reopened.

On Saturday, March 18, an emergency meeting took place for the residents of Llandow to discuss issues surrounding the fire.

Vale MP Alun Cairns hosted the event at Llandow Village Hall and said: "The fact that over 40 people turned up to the meeting on a Saturday morning, to express their concerns, demonstrates the urgent need for an investigation of the site.

"I am in ongoing discussions with Natural Resources Wales and South Wales Fire Service to ensure that appropriate action is being taken by all bodies to address residents' concerns. First and foremost, safety must be the priority!"

Town plays its part on Commonwealth Day

The flag flies over Cowbridge.

ABOVE: This was the scene in Cowbridge on Commonwealth Day (March 13) as the Commonwealth Flag was raised. The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Liz George, was joined for the occasion by pupils from Y Bont Faen Primary and Cowbridge Comprehensive School. The flag was flown for 24 hours. (PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK.)

Primary dance club strut their stuff!

LLANFAIR Primary School dance club performed at the Barry Memorial Hall for the Best Foot Forward dance show on March 15.

Their 'Ghostbusters Dance' was fantastic! Well done to everyone involved. MR

MAYOR'S INVITATION TO THE CHARITY BALL

At her most recent coffee morning in the Council chambers in Cowbridge Town Hall, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Elizabeth George, was reminding people of the Mayor's Charity Ball, on April 28. Tickets are still available for the annual event, which is a popular feature in the Cowbridge calendar. At the coffee morning, she and her consort, Mr Christopher George, welcomed two visitors to the town who had popped in to look at the historic town hall. The Mayor's next coffee morning will be on Saturday, April 1, 10.30am to 12.30pm. (PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK).

U3A take a stroll around Talygarn's faded splendour

Cowbridge U3A Strollers stop to admire Adam's Well.

THERE was an excellent turnout of 30 members of Cowbridge U3A Strollers at the edge of Pontyclun for what proved to be a pleasant 2.3 mile walk, led by guest guide Valerie.

The weather was clear and dry, but, unfortunately, as a consequence of the previous heavy rainfall, the path around Talygarn Lake was found to be a morass of mud in places.

The lower lake was crossed by an elegant three-arched bridge, which divides the eight acre water feature. As the party paused, a pair of swans was seen to be nest building in the reeds.

The group visited the nearby picturesque Adam's Well (also known as Adam's Pond), an ornamental pool featuring a Grade II listed stone arch and basin, with what appeared to be a spring, gushing out water.

The arch is flanked by tall inscription tablets (sadly deteriorating) which bear engravings of romantic poems, one being dedicated as an 'Address to the Nymph of the Rock'.

On the return leg of the walk, there was a good view of Talygarn, the large 19th century Tudor Gothic mansion built by local industrialist George Clark, who had the rooms decorated in Italianate-style (the painted ceilings and wood panelling can still be seen). Valued at £22,000 in 1922, the house was sold a year later to become a miners' convalescent home.

Talygarn then passed to the National Health Service, before being sold to developers in 2001 for conversion into apartments.

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'Wonderful Book Day' at Pendoylan School

ON Friday, March 10, World Book Day was celebrated in Pendoylan Primary School.

Children were all dressed in amazing costumes to look like their favourite characters from their favourite books. Even the teachers joined in!

We had a class competition of designing wonderful bookmarks and the winners won a lovely book to read. We had a wonderful World Book Day celebration.

by Ottilie Rogers Year 6

The whole school got involved.

Even the teachers dressed as some of their favourite book characters!

Out and about in Peterston-super-Ely

PETERSTON Connect has arranged a litter pick with Keep Wales Tidy for Thursday, April 6 starting at 5.30pm, meeting at the church lych gate.

This is a family-friendly event, but if anyone has a recent first aid certificate, and wishes to join us, please get in touch, as KWT are insisting that separate groups must be accompanied by a trained first aider.

Peterston Entertainment Society has arranged a quiz in the Peterston village hall on April 7 at 7pm for 7:30pm. Tickets are £6, including supper.

This month's Film Night is: *A United Kingdom* held in the Peterston village hall on April 28. Doors and bar open at 7pm for 7.30pm; tickets £4.

Purchase tickets for all events at the Peterston Super Ely post office.

We are pleased to report a very successful March market,with £400 being passed on to the hall committee.

We would like to welcome everyone to our village table top sale in conjunction with our April market, which will be held on Saturday, April 8 at the village hall.

For more information, I can be contacted at peterstonnews@mail.com

SUZY DAVIES

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan School

THE children have enjoyed a most interesting week, with swimming lessons, a visit to Folly Farm and on March 16, the Air Ambulance visited the school to talk about the work they do.

Another interesting week began on March 20, when Llangan pupils took part in a Vale Netball Festival at RAF St Athan.

On Friday, March 24, the children will be raising money for Red Nose Day by dressing in red and holding a talent show.

Saron Chapel

THE service which took place at Saron Chapel, Treoes, on March 19 was very well attended, with visitors from Bridgend and Coychurch joining the locals from Llangan and Treoes.

Pastor Chika, who is from Nigeria, West Africa, was accompanied by his wife and two small children. I am sure Pastro Chika will receive a further invitation to conduct a service at Saron.

Remembering the POW camp

DURING the Second World War from 1942, I worked as a driver for well-known butchers Dewhurst.

Every Thursday, I would drive to Swansea with supplies for the shops based there, which meant having to pass the prisoner of war camp in Bridgend.

Many times I would see German officers walking outside the camp, always extremely smart and our armed British military guarding them.

I was, of course, extremely worried when I heard there had been an escape from the camp and warned my parents to lock all doors and keep a pitchfork handy!

A 'MOMENTOUS MOMENT' FOR LLANTWIT MAJOR AS THE NEW SCHOOLS ARE OPEN TO PUPILS

Coun John chats to a pupil.

From left: Jane O'Leary (Vale Council), Couns Gwyn John, Neil Moore, Lis Burnett; Fiona Greville and headteacher Dr Vince Browne.

ALL three schools that make up the Llantwit Learning Community are now open, with pupils at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School taking up residence in their new buildings earlier this month, six months ahead of schedule.

Pupils at the school have settled quickly into their new surroundings and this week Dr Vince Browne and Mrs Fiona Greville gave a tour to Council Leader Coun Neil Moore, Deputy Leader Coun Lis Burnett, and Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for visible, leisure and regulatory services, to show off some of the highlights.

The school has seen major investment in its buildings as part of the £24.4m investment into the campus. The newly-constructed block, which replaces four older buildings, includes new IT suites, a drama studio and science labs, and has been built to the same high standard as the award winning Penarth Learning Community which was completed in 2015.

New drop-off zones and parking arrangements will help to ease congestion at the start and end of the day.

Alongside the school, construction of an all-weather 3G sports pitch is now under way, a facility that will be open to local residents once completed. This work along with improvements to the adjacent leisure centre which is used by the school is due to be completed in March 2018.

Coun Moore said: "The Llantwit Learning Community is one of the most significant investments ever into education in the Vale.

"When the project was announced we committed ourselves to delivering sector leading educational facilities, not just for our children and young people but for the community of Llantwit Major as a whole. We have kept our pledge to the town and I am delighted to be here today with Coun John to see the difference that this investment is making to pupils."

Mrs Fiona Greville, acting headteacher, said: "This is a momentous moment in the history of education in Llantwit Major as the pupils in the town are finally getting the first class education facilities that they so richly deserve."

The new Llantwit Learning Community campus consists of three schools. As well as the upgraded comprehensive school the town is now served by Ysgol Dewi Sant, the new 210-place Welsh medium primary school which opened its doors in 2015, and Ysgol Y Ddraig, a 420-place English medium primary school, which opened in October 2016.

Coun Burnett with pupils.

Pupils at work in one of the new computer suites.

Local woman now reluctant to use the local recycling plant

LAST week, The GEM ran a story highlighting the poor state of the private road to Llandow recycling plant.

The Vale Council has filled some potholes even though it is not responsible for the road, and it is in contact with the owners over its current condition.

Rachel Harris wrote to The GEM:

"In May last year I visited the recycling site and the following day went to Porthcawl Caravan Park for a short stay with my daughter, grandson and the dog.

"On arrival we emptied the car and I took the dog for a walk.

"On my return I noticed that one of my rear tyres was flat to the ground. The reason? A screw was embedded in the tyre.

"This could have had serious consequences for me and my family.

"I can't say for definite that the cause was my trip to Landow but I strongly suspect it was.

"On a previous occasion, I drove over a hump in the road and heard a loud bang. I got out of the car and discovered that I had driven into a pothole hidden on the other side which I had not seen.

"I now have various items in my shed to dispose of but I am extremely reluctant to go to the site again.

"I have used this site for several years and am always careful how I drive up there, but it's now become too risky to do so.

"Where I live, people are constantly leaving items opposite my house and I then have to contact the council to remove them.

"Obviously this must impact on our council tax.

"If the council can't repair the road, then maybe they should consider moving the site to another location, although I appreciate this may not be possible.

"However, one way or another things cannot continue as they are, and I for one will have to investigate what other sites are available to me."

Coun Gwyn John informed The GEM that the Vale Council had told the owner of the road that it would repair the road at cost price to the owners as the council cannot spend taxpayers' money on private property.

He added that unfortunately the owner of the site has not come forward with funding.

'SON OF A MANSE' TELLS HIS STORY

PRESIDENT Fran Mitchell welcomed speaker Arfon Haines Davies, well-known to many from his career in television presenting on both HTV and S4C channels, to a Welsh-themed evening at St Nicholas WI recently.

Mr Haines Davies spoke with much humour of his childhood as a 'son of a manse' in Caernarvon, moving to Aberystwyth, and eventually settling in south Wales.

A childhood hobby of collecting the little cards that used to be found in packets of tea grew into his keen interest in the works of Welsh artists.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Margaret Banks and three new members were welcomed.

It was noted that the annual outing would be to Picton Castle in June.

Members were asked to consider nominations for the committee, as there would be two vacancies at the May AGM.

The group were sorry to learn that St Fagans WI had closed because of its inability to fill vacant posts. The group had enjoyed the friendship and support of its members in the Link Group for many years.

News from Federation House was noted, including a trip to the National Botanic Garden at Llanarthne to view the honey bees at work.

The next meeting will take place at 7pm in St Nicholas Church Hall on Thursday, April 6. **WL**

The 'Ed Evans Foundation' 10th anniversary walk is set for Easter Monday

THE Ed Evans Foundation is to host its 10th anniversary walk on Easter Monday, April 17 (registration at 9am).

Ed Evans.

Over the last decade the foundation has raised £200,000 in loving memory of Ed and helped numerous causes.

Friends, family and supporters will be meeting at The Plough and Harrow, Monknash (CF71 7QQ).

Ed was born and brought up in Marcross. In 2001 he joined the Royal Navy and successfully trained as a diver. Not long after he was diagnosed with a brain tumour and had to be discharged.

In January 2006 Ed, along with family and friends, organised a hugely successful charity summer ball at The Marriott Hotel, Cardiff and raised £10,000 for Cancer Research Wales. The event inspired Ed to set up the foundation.

Sadly, in 2007, at the age of just 27 Ed died, but it was his wish and that of his family and friends that its work should continue. Its aim is to raise funds for deserving causes including research into cancer and brain tumours.

His mother Sue and members of his family are looking forward to meeting friends and supporters on what will be a landmark event for the foundation.

If people would like more information, please go to: https: www.edevansfoundation.co.uk

News from the Bont Faen WI

THIS month, Bont Faen WI welcomed Catwg Handbelles, eight handbell ringers and a compere, to the meeting.

The original group was formed in 1999 when a set of English bells was found in the belltower of St Catwg's Church in Neath.

During World War Two, bells were only rung in an emergency or to signal an invasion, so bell ringers continued to practice with handbells. The type used at the meeting were American bells – 27 in all, with a range of two octaves.

They rang a varied programme of melodies and the link between each item was either an amusing story or a poem.

Eight brave members got up and they performed 'Twinkle, Twinkle' very ably.

During the business part of the evening, it was reported that some members had been on a trip to Cirencester; items from the county letter were noted; and interest shown in a fashion show.

It was decided that members would make a donation to the Llanblethian community who are raising funds for a defibrillator.

The branch social will be held on Thursday, April 6 at the Duke of Wellington. Members will spend the evening packing gifts for the lucky dip and also making bunting to decorate their stall at the May Fair on May 1.

Next month's meeting will be the AGM and Resolutions evening, on Thursday, April 20.

Barry garden project bags £2,000 from Tesco grant scheme

BARRY Community Garden bagged £2,000 from a Tesco funding scheme to begin the process of bringing its woodwork project to life.

A four-week training programme is currently taking place at the garden, which is managed by Newydd Housing Association and owned by the Vale Council, to teach people how to build a range of products, including benches, planters and bird boxes, from pallets.

Working in partnership with Eggseeds, the course allows volunteers to sell some of the items to create income for the garden.

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Mike 'trundles' on for Big Row

RIGHT: Mike Trundle on the rowing machine at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

A Llantwit Major man found a most unusual way to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary this month – by 'rowing' 50 miles for charity.

Mike Trundle, who lives in Boverton, didn't have a suitable river nearby, so he clocked up the miles on a rowing machine in Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

He joined the Cancer Research UK 'Great Row' – which suggested that people could cover a half-marathon or full marathon distance.

However, Mike decided to tweak this.

He explained: "They agreed to my changing the requirements because this year my wife, Angela, and I celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary and I set an initial target of 1km for each year of our marriage.

"To achieve this I rowed 10km every day for five days."

However, Mike decided that, after five days, he hadn't suffered enough, so he changed the kilometres to miles, and made the target 50 miles instead. This added another three tough days of rowing to his task.

Mike hit that target and spoke to The GEM: "We've asked all guests to our golden wedding celebration to contribute sponsorship instead of presents.

"As a result of this and other sponsorship on my Cancer Research UK donation page, we've already raised in excess of £600 – some from people I don't actually know – which just goes to show how cancer touches most lives in one way or another.

"Although my individual challenge is over now, the event will continue nationally until the beginning of April, so there's time for other readers to get involved at their local gym; or, if they would prefer not to row, perhaps support my sponsorship appeal, which can be found on *https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/50-golden-k"*

ROTARY WINNERS

There were two joint overall winners in the RBS Six Nations charity competition organised by Cowbridge Rotary Club, when 11 entrants had 14 out of 15 predictions correct – so it went to a tie-breaker.

"The total number of tries scored was 66. One entry had 62 tries and another had 70," said Rotarian Andrew Lane.

"The winners were Jeff Wood and Martin Tumelty, who shared the prize – £50 each. The competition produced a net contribution to our charity account of £485.

"The Rotary Club of Cowbridge is grateful to The GEM for supporting the competition and to everyone who entered," Mr Lane added.

Dinas Powys concert

ON Sunday, April 9, at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, the Dinas Powys Orchestra will be performing a programme featuring Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, Krommer's *Double Clarinet Concerto*, and Schubert's *Symphony No 5*.

The soloists are Tiago Ferreira and David Dodd and tickets are £8 with under-12s £3, available on the door or telephone 029 2070 6288.

František Krommer was a Czech composer whose 71-year life span began half a year after the death of Handel and ended nearly four years after that of Beethoven.

His output was prolific, with at least 300 published compositions, including at least nine symphonies, 70 string quartets and many others for winds and strings, along with the idiomatic and, at times, powerful music for wind ensemble, for which he is best known today.

The soloists are new members of the orchestra.

GOT A STORY? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

AM will fight Cowbridge YBS branch closure

YBS member Tim Buchalik (left) and Jane Hutt AM in Cowbridge.

THE Yorkshire Building Society (YBS) has announced that it is closing its branch in Cowbridge.

In January, the Yorkshire Building Society Group announced that 20 YBS branches would be closed in May – and it was confirmed recently that Cowbridge branch was one of them.

It will close on May 19.

A spokesperson said: "We have decided to close our Cowbridge branch.

"While we are still committed to providing face-to-face service where customer demand makes this effective and sustainable, we must recognise and respond to the evolving ways in which customers want to transact.

"Last year, 77 per cent of our 3.3 million customers did not transact in a branch.

"We have, therefore, concluded it is not financially sustainable to maintain some of our branches."

The Vale AM Jane Hutt has said she will oppose the closure.

Meeting a member of the YBS, Tim Buchalik, she said she was making strong representations against the closure, based on feedback from local people.

She said: "I understand there are well over 3,000 members of Yorkshire Building Society in this area and the closure appears to be a foregone conclusion.

"Mr Buchalik told me he joined YBS because it is local and it is a membership- based mutual, but it is disregarding his views and not considering the adverse impact this closure will have on him and his family.

"I will be raising my objections to this closure removing financial services and jobs from the local community."

Mike Regnier, chief executive of YBS, said: "As a mutual, it is important that we always act in the best long-term interests of our membership and evolve the business in line with their changing needs.

"We believe these proposals give us greater focus on providing existing and future members with the things they want from us most: a safe place for their savings, and funding to buy their own home, and providing these in an easy and simple way.

"We continually review all areas of the business to ensure we remain focused on what our members require while utilising their money as effectively as possible.

"This means we must sometimes make adjustments to the way the business operates."

'WE'RE DEVASTATED'

Family's anguish after discovering mother was buried in wrong plot

by TIM CHAPMAN

PENARTH family members have been left devastated after their mother was buried in the wrong cemetery plot.

The mistake only came to light when they wanted to bury her baby great-grand daughter with her recently.

Paul Hooper (58) explained: "My niece Catherine lost her baby daughter a few months ago and Catherine wanted her buried with my mother Marion Jarvis (née Hooper), her great-grandmother, at Penarth Cemetery.

"It was then that we discovered that she had been buried in the wrong grave.

"The family were devastated when we found out. Since then I have had problems sleeping – it's been terrible."

Marion was Penarth born and bred and lived at Coronation Terrace. She died in 2003 at the age of 82.

Penarth-born Marion Jarvis (née Hooper).

Paul Hooper – 'The family is devastated'.

The family had to sign papers to have her body moved a few feet into the correct plot. They attended the reinterment on Tuesday, March 14.

Paul's sister Pat, Catherine's mother, told The GEM the family had asked Penarth Council whether her mother could stay where she was, but that wasn't possible.

She added: "They have apologised and brought flowers when they reburied my mother."

The ashes of her granddaughter were also buried with her mother.

It has been a traumatic period for the family and Mr Hooper says he plans to take the matter up with his MP Alun Cairns.

A spokeswoman for Penarth Town Council emphasised that after the mistake was discovered it worked swiftly to redress matters.

"Firstly, Penarth Town Council would like to publically apologise to the family of Mrs Marion Jarvis and the obvious distress this situation has caused.

"The error occurred 14 years ago when Mrs Jarvis was interred at Penarth Cemetery. The issue came to light when Mrs Patricia Quick came to the council to arrange for her baby grand-daughter's ashes to be interred with Mrs Jarvis.

"From a legal point of view, Mrs Jarvis's family did not hold the exclusive rights of burial for the grave where Mrs Jarvis was originally buried. Therefore, this had to be corrected and the only course of correct action the council could take was to apply to the Ministry of Justice to conduct an exhumation and arrange immediate reburial to the correct grave plot.

"At all times, officers at Penarth Town Council have worked with the family to redress the error as swiftly and sympathetically as possible.

"Penarth Town Council feels that it has worked well with the family, and on all occasions of meeting them officers have been helpful and accommodating to the family's requests.

"Officers have been thanked by members of the family during this difficult time. The family has been notified by council officers of the options available to them should they wish to make a formal complaint."

GOODBYE TO EMMA'S LOCKS...

...but two charities are going to benefit

A St Athan woman will be saying goodbye to her long hair next month – to help two charities

Emma Sandean will have her hair cut on Saturday, April 8, by Harriet at Hair Studio in Llantwit Major, who has donated her services.

Emma's hair will be donated to the Little Princess Trust, which makes wigs for children who lose their hair when undergoing medical treatment.

However, she is also keen to raise money for a cause dear to her heart – a local charity for which she is a volunteer.

Emma told The GEM: "I want to raise awareness of our free support group for local breastfeeding mothers. – run by the 'La Leche League (LLL)'.

"We are a very active group both online and at meetings, which happen every week on a Friday at 10am alternating between Bethel Baptist Church Hall in Llantwit Major and St Athan Community Centre.

"Any one requiring breastfeeding support or queries about our local group can call Trish on 07890 992730."

Emma Sandean, who will be saying good bye to her long locks, in aid of two good causes!

Emma continued: "We are lucky enough to have two amazing LLL leaders trained in all things breastfeeding, mothering support and problem solving.

"Trish (Patricia Bennett), is an amazing gentle 'soul mother' and grandmother, who did her training when her own babies were small and continues to help mothers now.

"An ex midwife and also an 'IBCLC' lactation consultant so she is very much in demand!

"Jo (Johanna Rhys-Davies) is a passionate advocate for all mothers but especially to get the support to breastfeeding mothers when and where they need it.

"She is a full-time mother to Bob, and also rather jet-set and is currently in Australia where she also works with other LLL groups!"

Emma said that the members of the group were inspiring and supportive, with lots of good advice for mothers.

She added: "We have an awful lot of regular mummies and friends who turn up week after week listening and sharing experiences, reassurance, recipes and breastfeeding.

"We have a Facebook support page of the name 'la leche league: vale of Glamorgan' where we help and support each other as well as have a lovely community.

Emma's hair cut will take place on April 8, and donations can be made via: http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/hair-snip

OAK FIELD PRIMARY PUPILS IMPROVE LANGUAGE SKILLS

THE nursery children at Oak Field Primary School celebrated their success at a special assembly recently after taking part in a six-week programme of 'language and play'.

Sponsored by Putting Families First, the children learned stories and rhymes, sang and played along with Musical Minis and ventured out into the great outdoors to go on a bear hunt!

Parents and carers received their certificates, along with the children who saw an improvement in their language skills throughout the programme.

ND

ABOVE: Oak Field Primary School nursery pupils proudly show their certificates.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

WCVA offers a 'health check'

THE Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) has produced a 'Good Governance Health Check,' which can be broken down and completed at your own pace, so it needn't be a daunting task.

It can be found on the WCVA website: www.wcva.org.uk/advice-guidance/trustees-and-governance/tools-to-help-you

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) promotes the voluntary sector in the Vale of Glamorgan, and part of that includes support with governance-related matters. To talk with someone about the governance of your group or organisation, call 01446 741706, or e-mail: enquiries@gvs.wales. Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) Website: www.gvs.wales.

PACT meetings

***GIBBONSDOWN** – meet your local neighbourhood team at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry, every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.*

***ST BRIDES** coffee and chat at the Fox and Hounds, St Brides, on Thursday, March 30 at 11am.*

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life and are unable to attend a meeting please contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk.

Coun Peter King with representatives of Bellway Homes and Walters Construction, as the bus lane at Port Road is opened to the public.

New bus lane is open in Wenvoe

A NEW signalised junction with a dedicated bus lane on Port Road, Wenvoe, has been officially opened to the public.

A joint partnership between the Welsh Government, Vale Council and Bellway Homes, the scheme aims to enhance cycle and pedestrian facilities along the northern section of Port Road, and encourage more people to walk and cycle there.

Gareth Stevens, commercial manager of Cardiff Buses, said: "It is hoped that it will offer quicker journey times between Barry and Llantwit Major."

Kevyn Jones, managing director of New Adventure Travel, said: "The new bus lane and improved traffic signals will help us deliver a reliable service with consistent journey times that will meet passengers' expectations."

Coun Peter King, Vale Council cabinet member for building services, highways and transportation, said: "The new signalised junction will not only offer improvements for those travelling by car, but will also provide for those cycling and walking.

"We have a continuing commitment to improving the transport network across the Vale – evidenced by the recent completion of the £500,000 scheme to provide the new junction at Cross Common Road – and hope the new bus lane at Port Road will prove a significant gateway in the future."

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CAVC beats off all comers to win award

From left: Pearson marketing director for apprenticeships Claire Riddle, Minister for Skills and Science Julie James, Mike James, and Association of Colleges Beacon Steering Group Welsh representative Dr John Graystone.

CARDIFF and Vale College has been presented with a national award for being the top apprenticeship provider in the UK.

CAVC beat off competition from the rest of the UK's Further Education (FE) providers to win the Association of Colleges Beacon Award for Promotion and Delivery of Apprenticeships, sponsored by Pearson.

The Beacon Awards celebrate the best and most innovative practice among UK FE institutions, rewarding colleges that go above and beyond in providing technical and professional education. Award winners must also offer something exceptional to students and the wider community.

Dr John Graystone, the Welsh representative on the AoC's Beacon Steering Group, and Minister for Skills and Science Julie James presented the award to Cardiff and Vale College Group chief executive Mike James and Cardiff and Vale College principal Kay Martin, who is also chair of the Quality Skills Alliance (QSA).

This academic year also saw the region's other leading apprenticeship provider, ACT, join forces with the CAVC family. This created the Cardiff and Vale College Group, the largest college in Wales and in the UK's top five with a £75m turnover and more than 30,000 learner [student] enrolments annually.

Mr James said: "We are absolutely thrilled to receive the Beacon Award today. It is testament to the hard work and determination shown by our apprenticeship team, subcontractors and staff right across the college and the QSA and I am hugely proud of their achievement."

LEADERSHIP CAFE 'TEAM OF THE YEAR'

The Leadership Café team celebrate their success at this year's LGC Awards.

THE Vale Council has won an award.

The team behind the council's 'Leadership Café' scheme was crowned 'Team of the Year' at the Local Government Chronicle awards in London.

Rob Thomas, managing director said: "This is absolutely fantastic news and a very proud moment for the council.

"The Leadership Café has previously been recognised as good practice by the Wales Audit Office and has rightly now received further praise.

"It is not, however, just this group of colleagues that is setting new standards for achievement in the Vale. Teams throughout the organisation are working harder than ever to improve the services that we deliver for the Vale, and all colleagues should be proud of this recognition."

Vale AM supported recent 'Fairtrade Fortnight' event

VALE AM Jane Hutt celebrated 'Fairtrade Fortnight' by holding a coffee morning with the Rainbow Group in Barry, and by attending an event at Dinas Powys Primary School.

The Labour AM reported: "It is wonderful to see local groups like Dinas Powys Fairtrade promoting the scheme locally and spreading the word about the impact buying these products has on farmers and producers in developing countries.

"It is also fantastic that they are working with schools in the Vale to spread the word about it."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rhoose Community Hall

THE management committee at Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, is holding a fundraising bingo afternoon on Saturday, March 25. Doors will open at 1.45pm for a prompt 2.30pm start.

There will be a raffle and refreshments; all proceeds go towards the running of the hall.

Cantorion Pontyclun concert

THE Cantorion Pontyclun choir and guests 'Affinity' choral group will hold a concert at the Pontyclun Athletic Club on May 26 at 7.30pm.

Tickets (£5) available at the door or from choir members. Proceeds will go to Alzheimer's charity.

Independent to stand in Wenvoe ward

Russell Godfrey

RUSSELL GODFREY has confirmed that he will be standing as an independent candidate for the Wenvoe Ward in the forthcoming May elections.

The Wenvoe ward is one that has seen many changes in recent years, with two ongoing new housing developments (in Wenvoe) and one about to commence in St Nicholas, along with the redevelopment of the Cambrian Park Home Site and the loss of the HTV Studios.

Mr Godfrey said: "My main aim if elected is to do my upmost to protect the remaining green belt within the ward

"I would ensure that residents' concerns within the ward are raised with the Vale Council and do my upmost to get satisfactory responses to these issues.

"I would hold regular surgeries across the ward.

"If anyone would be interested in helping in anyway with my campaign please contact me via the following email address: russell.godfrey@live.co.uk or by telephone on 07724 827 496."

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Table top sale

ON Saturday, April 1 at 11 am, a table top sale will be held at Crossway Methodist Church, Court Road, Barry.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Young ballet contenders need sponsors for 'Dance World Cup'

THE Nicola Peros Ballet School, which holds classes in Barry and Cardiff, has announced that 10 young ballet students aged between nine and 12 have qualified to compete for Team Wales in this year's Dance World Cup in Offenburg, Germany.

Keira Durston will be competing in the Pointe Solo and Ellie Daniels, Grace Long, Elizabeth Hope Angove, Leia Cavaliere, Louise Bagnall, Mollie Foley, Mia Thomson, Stefanie Maurer and Eleanora Smalley will all be competing in a group dance at the opening ceremony on June 23, at what is considered by some to be the Olympic Games of the dance world.

In order to cover the costs of sending the talented young dancers to the event, the ballet school is trying to raise around £4,000 to pay for accommodation, flights, travel costs to the venue and the dancers' costumes.

According to school principal and RAD registered teacher, Nicola Peros, the students will be carrying out a number of fundraising activities, such as bag packing at local supermarkets, and they will be holding a craft fair and coffee morning event at St Nicholas Hall, Barry on April 29.

Members of the public are encouraged to come and support the students at these events.

There is also a crowd funding Just Giving page.

Nicola said: "A £5 donation will cover the cost of ribbons for the shoes for the dancers so anything members of the public can donate will be greatly appreciated."

They have put together a sponsorship package for businesses, which includes – for a £250 donation – a business/company logo on the Team Wales tracksuits, press activity in the form of a dedicated press release for the business/company to publicise the sponsorship, the logo to appear on the Nicola Peros Facebook page, website and on any adverts.

Nicola continued: "This is an amazing opportunity for local businesses to get behind talented young children in the area. Over the years, we have had a number of talented young dancers go on to top vocational schools, including The Royal Ballet School, Elmhurst Ballet School, Hammond School Chester and Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London. Our students have also appeared regularly on the TV".

To sponsor the dancers, contact Nicola Peros on 07850 741136 or email: info@nicolaperosballet.com.

Some of the young dancers who will be heading for Offenburg.

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NEW PRIEST COMES HOME TO MARGAM

IT will be a homecoming for the new priest for Margam, Father Edward Owen, who grew up in the neighbouring parish.

In fact, some of his old teachers from his childhood days at Dyffryn School are members of his new congregation.

Fr Edward will be licensed as priest-in-charge of Margam by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne at Margam Abbey on Sunday, March 26, at 3.30pm. All are welcome.

He takes over from Father Terry Doherty, who retired two years ago after 12 years in the parish. Originally from Port Talbot, Fr Edward worked as a teacher in Swansea and Ebbw Vale before entering the priesthood at the age of 32.

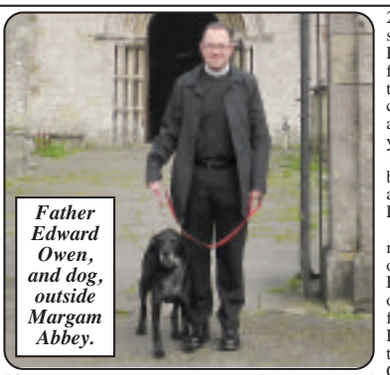
"I am absolutely delighted to be coming home after being away for 25 years," said Fr Edward, who is married to Philippa, a teacher.

A former teacher himself, Edward is looking forward to strengthening links within the local community and particularly with the schools.

As the mission priest of the Margam Pilgrimage Centre – which includes the historic Margam Stones Museum and the renowned Abbot's Kitchen – Fr Edward will also be aiming to develop use of the on-site resources.

"We will be looking to develop the educational and historic resources of the Abbey and encourage more people to visit here for things such as 'quiet days'," said Fr Edward.

"I am looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new friends as I get to know the parishioners here and help them to develop their prayer life."



Father Edward Owen, and dog, outside Margam Abbey.

Fr Edward will also be responsible for the nearby St David's Church, which will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2018-19.

Bishop David said, "Fr Edward, a former RE teacher, has had wide experience of both urban and rural ministry in four different contexts, and was deeply valued and loved in each and every one of them.

"Deeply prayerful, he has enabled the spiritual life of many to flourish, including a fair few who have gone on to explore their own vocation to ministry. Very personable, with a sure liturgical touch, he will be well suited to ministry in both ancient Margam Abbey and St David's, and among the people these places serve."

Fr Edward moves to Margam from Cowbridge, where he has been Team Vicar since 2013. Previously he served in the parish of Penarth and Llandough for three years and before that he was priest-in-charge at Llandyfodwg and Cwmogwr for two years.

His first post after being ordained was assistant curate at Llandaff Cathedral.

Fr Edward, who is a member of the third order of Society of St Francis – a religious order for people who follow the spirit of St Francis, also served as the Diocesan Spirituality Officer for three years until 2015.

In his spare time, he enjoys walking his dog, running, cooking and reading.

Nuclear sub plans auction boosts Barnardo's Cymru!

A BARNARDO'S charity shop is celebrating the perfect ending to the tale of nuclear submarine plans found hidden in a donated suitcase.

Bids for the cutaway plans of the £200m HMS *Trafalgar* were received from as far away as America, when they were put up for auction at the Barnardo's Cymru Porthmadog shop.

But they will be making their permanent home with Mark Rice, a submariner for 26 years, who served aboard the sub as a Warrant Officer II electrical engineer from 2007 until it was decommissioned in 2009.

It was bought for him as a surprise present by his partner Tara Burke, who rang the shop every day during the five-day auction and managed to place the winning bid of £320 with just one minute to spare – by dashing into motorway services to make the call.

Mark, who now works as a project manager in Suffolk, was overwhelmed by the gesture. "I joined the Royal Navy when I was 16 and spent my whole career on submarines, serving on five of the seven *Trafalgar* class submarines, so to get this is just amazing. I even went to the decommissioning of this particular vessel.

Tara said: " Everyone in my office knew I was bidding and it caused plenty of excitement – people were even offering to contribute to ensure I got it! It's brilliant that the money is going to Barnardo's."

Chorale to perform Messiah

The Chorale are pictured rehearsing in Llantwit Major.

ST DONATS CHORALE will be performing their first concert since moving to Llantwit Major, at the comprehensive school on Saturday, April 1 at 7.30pm.

They will be performing *Handel's Messiah,* which includes the popular 'Hallelujah Chorus'.

A choir spokesperson said that they had decided to invite anyone who has sung this music before to join them on the day. They will be holding a workshop on the morning of the concert, followed by a full rehearsal in the afternoon, before the concert in the evening:

"There has been an excellent response and more than 100 voices will be singing with the choir. If anyone wishes to take part, visit the choir's website *www.stdonats.org.uk* and follow the instructions."

Tickets (£10) are available from Nickleby's Book Store in Llantwit Major, W G Davies Newsagent in Cowbridge and Harmony Furnishings in Barry, or direct from the website. Tickets will also be on sale at the door on the evening.

Anybody requiring any further information can email Richard Bayliss :- rjd1349@hotmail.co.uk.

STUDENTS LEAD PRAYER AT ST DONATS

RECENTLY, St Donat's Church hosted an interdenominational morning prayer, compiled and presented by students from Atlantic College.

Four continents were represented with prayers, hymns and songs from many varied styles of worship. In place of a sermon, seven students each gave a short talk about what being a Christian meant to them.

Periods of quiet reflection were ably accompanied by a student flautist and the theme of Christian unity was emphasised throughout and brought home with the final words:

"We come from many nations but we are all of one body, and we all share in one bread."

Nothing rubbish about Cowbridge group's litter pick

On March 5, 16 Cowbridge residents collected enough litter to fill 26 bags. Thank you everyone that took part, and The GEM for publicising the litter pick. From the Love Cowbridge, Hate Litter Group.

The Cowbridge Rainbows are learning about Fairtrade goods

SINCE January, Cowbridge Rainbows have been working on their Global Adventure Badge – learning about many different countries and cultures.

The badge includes a section on Fairtrade and with Fairtrade Fortnight running from February 27 – March 12, it was perfect timing to welcome Tom and Sara from Cowbridge Co-op to their sessions last week.

The Co-op was the first major retailer to champion Fairtrade, pioneering the sale of fairly traded goods before the Fairtrade Mark was introduced.

They were the first to sell Fairtrade bananas in the UK, and the first supermarket to convert its entire range of hot beverages to Fairtrade.

Tom and Sara brought along some groceries from the Co-op and showed the Rainbows how to identify Fairtrade goods by looking for the Fairtrade logo on tea, coffee, bananas, chocolate (including Easter Eggs!) and even cotton wool.

Tom and Sara also explained that buying Fairtrade products means that the producer receives a fair payment for his goods, enabling him to provide things for his own family that we take for granted.

The Rainbows were delighted to receive bananas and chocolate to sample and were all keen to tell their parents about buying Fairtrade products!

Girlguiding gives girls and young women opportunities to gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities, both locally and globally.

In the Cowbridge area, we have two Rainbow units (5-7 year olds), four Brownie units (7-10 year olds), two Guide units (10 – 14 year olds) and two units of The Senior Section (14-25 year olds).

It is thanks to the dedication and support of our amazing volunteers that we can give these girls the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good.

If you are interested in getting involved (as a young member or volunteer), register via our website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved and if you require any further information, contact charlotte.lord3@btintern et.com or 01446 781497 or 07949 003729.

CHARLOTTE LORD

Llanblethian WI learns some Hollywood history

THIS month, Mr Alan Davies from Ammanford came along to take us down memory lane with a nostalgic look at the cinema.

His presentation touched briefly on the 1920s when we had silent movies with great stars like Charlie Chaplin and Harold Lloyd, when a pianist played the appropriate music to capture the mood of the film.

Sound came first in 1927 with an Al Jolson film: the film was silent, but Al Jolson's singing was heard loud and clear. The invention of sound was not good news for all, many stars lost their jobs because they failed the voice test.

Cinema owners rushed to have sound systems fitted into their cinemas at great expense.

Hollywood was producing about 800 films a year and the cinemas were full of people who couldn't get enough of the joyous escapism these films provided, what with the American Depression and the start of World War Two.

People clamoured for some light relief – and who could blame them – and where else could we do our courting?

The cinema in the 1930-'40s not only provided light relief but gave us first hand pictures of the war effort; it was a window into another world.

Hollywood was providing the best quality film stars, writers, and producers at this time, much the same as Vienna had provided musicians, and Florence painters.

The barons of the film studios ruled with a rod of iron: Louise B Mayer of MGM; Harry Cohn of Columbia; Jack Warner of Warner Bros, were all great showmen but with an instinct and ability to recognise talent, but they were utterly ruthless and allegedly not very nice men.

However, they produced some very good films. Their greatest strength lay in westerns and musicals although they did produce great gangster movies too.

To top it all, in 1937 along came Walt Disney with animation. America had it all, beautiful scenery, all the seasons in their own country and the 'know how' to make great films.

But the great barons were so engrossed in their own kingdoms, they failed to see the importance of TV, and in 1948 when it was introduced, they didn't foresee the impact TV would have and that was the tragedy of the cinema; very sad, but I think you need to watch this space.

What great actress said this: "You can look me over but never overlook me," – answer from any member of Llanblethian WI?

This was a very factual and interesting talk: if you would like to join us, we would love to see you. We meet the second Thursday of the month at Llanblethian Church Hall at 7.30pm, see you there!

VG

Cowbridge Women's Fellowship Group samples college courses!

Cowbridge Women's Fellowship Group at Seasons Restaurant.

ON March 2, 21 members of Cowbridge Women's Fellowship Group sat down to a Welsh-themed lunch at Seasons, Bridgend College's training restaurant.

The meal started with a tasty bowl of cawl, followed by a choice of lamb or Glamorgan sausages with vegetables.

The desert course had a choice of pancakes, with stewed plums and Chantilly cream, or a diabetic sweet, followed by coffee and Welsh cakes.

The students did an admirable job of preparing and serving the lunch, under the supervision of their lecturers.

If anyone would like to join the group for future activities, it meets in the Church Hall, Llanblethian on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

Contact Hazel Coates on 01443 226412 or Georgina Magnay on 01446 774335.

Evan's four-timer

LLANHARAN'S Evan David was in great form at the Suffolk Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ampton last Sunday, where he rode his first ever four-timer.

All his four winners are owned by Andrew Pennock and all four are Irish-bred. Evan, who has been in great form this season, took the Club Members' race on *Scorpion Star*, the Intermediate on *Counting Stars,* the Restricted on *Mahlers Spirit* and the Open Maiden event on *Royal Chieftain*.

Brian Lee

Llantrisant & District Probus Club

AS we come to the end of another year, the club has grown in membership and a full programme of monthly events has been enjoyed.

For the next three months the speakers are:

April 18, Shawn Sullivan on 'Smart Meters'.

May 16 Romeo Guilietta on 'Italian Connection'.

June 16 Glen Booker on 'GIs in Britain'.

New members are always welcome to join us at Pontyclun Rugby Club on the third Tuesday of every month from 10.30am to 12 noon.

'A PLACE OF SOLACE AND FUN'

Garden opens at Noah's Ark Children's Hospital

The new garden: a bright, child-friendly space.

A NEW purpose-built, specially-designed garden to provide a therapy space for children outdoors, has been opened at the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales.

It was funded by the Welsh Government and Noah's Ark charity.

Celebrations have been led by Vaughan Gething AM, Chair of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Maria Battle, and president and founder of the Noah's Ark charity, Lyn Jones.

Maria Battle said: "The garden is absolutely beautiful! This bright, child-friendly space will allow families to come down from the wards and play and have fun together, hopefully helping them to relax for a while at such a worrying time."

Lyn Jones said: "The Noah's Ark Garden is very much a symbol of the combined vision we had for a children's hospital for Wales from the outset – a world class paediatric facility, with the needs of children and families at its very heart.

"It's also a haven for families, who in some cases are facing long periods apart, to spend time together away from the wards.

"As a charity, we're delighted to have been able to help make the vision for this garden a reality. We hope that it will provide a place of both solace and fun for generations of children to come."

LOBBY OVER PARK HOME LEVY

THE Welsh Government is launching a consultation to consider scrapping a charge on the sale of 'park homes'.

Park home residents are required to pay commission of up to 10 per cent to the site owner – a charge which was last reviewed in 1983, when it was brought down from 15 per cent.

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives – – hosted an event in the National Assembly for Wales this week to give park home residents an opportunity to meet with AMs to discuss the issue.

It followed a rally outside the Assembly where around 100 park home residents were expected to gather to lobby ministers to scrap the charge.

Mr Davies, said: "We wouldn't accept the council charging a 10 per cent levy on the sale of our home, on top of monthly charges like council tax, so why should park home residents have to tolerate it?

"However, while the Cabinet Secretary's announcement of a consultation on scrapping is welcome, any new rules need to be thought through."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Big Birding Day

A BIG Birding Day will be held on Sunday, April 30 at Kenfig Nature Reserve, from 10am to 4pm.

There will be plenty of events including guided bird walks, a bird ringing demonstration, help with bird ID, making bird feeders, childrens' activities plus book, cake and plant stalls. All welcome.

Spring fayre

WINDSOR Bowling Club are holding their spring fayre on Saturday, April 1 at the clubhouse in Robinswood Crescent, Penarth, starting at 10am.

Entrance is £1.50 to include a coffee or tea and a hot cross bun. There will be lots of stalls: cakes, bottles, plants, books, jewellery and toiletries, raffle, games and a lucky dip; all welcome.

Spring clean your wardrobe with Samantha B!

AT Samantha B, we have been very busy with the new spring/summer season and so far, we have sold out of five styles already!

As we start to think of spring/summer (difficult at the moment as it's so cold!), we may turn our attention to whether you want a complete new summer wardrobe, or just need to replace certain items, such as the classic white t-shirt or a new pair of crops.

It's really exciting to see all the lovely fresh colours; classic navy, vibrant lime and pastel pink to name a few.

Bianca, thoughtful as ever, has delivered a collection of beautifully tailored trousers, dresses and this season's must have – a floral bomber jacket – feminine without being froufrou, we love it!

Marble have pulled out all the stops too, fabulous colours in their famous ankle grazers; lime green, pastel pink and cerise, along with classic navy and lovely neutrals.

Marble are not just known for their jeans, they also have lovely summer knits, figure-flattering palazzo pants, maxi dresses and skirts.

We have also thought of the 'April showers' and have a lovely selection of showerproof jackets in navy, lime, pastel lilac, reds – a great way to finish off any outfit.

If you're lucky enough to be going away, we also have some very pretty Pac A Macs.

As ever we have all our favourite labels: adini, Olsen, Brandtex, signature, Fransa, David Barry coats, as well as a couple of new labels – what are you waiting for?

If you fancy supporting different charities, we are holding fashion shows at Peterson-super-Ely on March 24; Costa Coffee on March 31 for the Scouts and St Athan Golf Club on April 6.

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LSC 2017

Ty Llandaff and Rotary Club team up for Woody's Lodge

Home care manager Janice Evans receives the contributions from Rotary Club's Jill Osbourne. Photograph by Mike Deardon

LUXURY Cardiff care home Tŷ Llandaff and the Rotary Club of Barry have teamed up to raise money for a military charity.

Tŷ Llandaff, which opened in December, invited 15 members from the Rotary Club to the multi-million pound care home in Conway Road, Pontcanna for the charity fundraiser, as part of its aim to build links with the local community.

Barry Rotary Club were given an exclusive tour of the care home's fabulous facilities, which include a home cinema, hair and nail salon and piano bar, before sitting down and enjoying a sumptuous three-course dinner.

The evening was hosted by Tŷ Llandaff care home manager Janice Evans, office manager Elaine Bates and Eirwen Jones, wife of one of the care home's residents.

Tŷ Llandaff specialises in residential, nursing and respite care and its chosen charity for the evening was Woody's Lodge, which was set up in 2016 by six veterans and one civilian.

It is named after Woody, a member of the Special Boat Service (SBS), who died in October 2012 during a training exercise preparing for deployment to Afghanistan.

The charity supports local veterans residing in Cardiff and Barry, many of whom are facing welfare, health and social problems.

Rotary Club president-elect, Jill Osbourne, rounded off the charity dinner by presenting sealed gold envelopes from each dining table, full of contributions totalling £135 to Janice.

Janice said: "Tŷ Llandaff is proud to support nominated charity Woody's Lodge for 2017. They offer a wonderful service to ex-servicemen and women including companionship and direct signposting to agencies and organisations that require skilled support.

"The charity fundraising evening was thoroughly enjoyable and it was a wonderful opportunity for us to team up with the Rotary Club of Barry who carries out some tremendous work supporting local people young and old in the community."

For more information about Tŷ Llandaff, call Janice on 02920 600 100, email info@ tyllandaffcare.com

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The First Step to a Better Smile

The Search and Rescue team seeks your vote!

THE Western Beacons Mountain Search and Rescue Team is calling for the public to vote for them – to secure funding for the Western Beacons Water Safety Project.

The project is one of five in ITV Wales region competing for National Lottery funding in the 2017 People's Projects competition.

The Big Lottery Fund, ITV and The National Lottery have teamed up to give the UK public the chance to decide how £3 million of National Lottery funding will make a difference in their local area. The three projects with the most public votes will receive grants of up to £50,000.

On Friday, March 24, ITV Wales will showcase the Western Beacons Water Safety Project at 6pm.

The team is a volunteer organisation and registered charity that responds 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to requests from police to mount search and rescue operations.

Michael Jeffery, deputy team leader , said: "Being chosen as a good cause to receive funding from the People's Project is vital to getting our project underway. On average, every 20 hours in the UK someone drowns, while hundreds more suffer life-changing injuries through near drowning each year.

"With this funding, we can help reduce those numbers and increase our capability to respond to such incidents when they happen."

Voting closes at noon on Monday, April 3.

For more information, visit www.the peoplesprojects.org.uk.

glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Queen's Baton Relay has three local stages

AS part of this year's Commonwealth Day celebrations, the Queen set the Gold Coast 2018 Queen's Baton Relay in motion during a launch ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Team Wales announced that the Baton will visit several places in Wales in September, including Bridgend, Barry, and the Royal Mint in Llantrisant, during its 388-day journey through the entire Commonwealth.

In total, the Baton will cover nearly 143,000 miless en route to its final destination, the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games on April 4, 2018.

Chris Jenkins, Commonwealth Games Wales chief executive, said: "We're extremely proud to announce this route.

"Team Wales brings together all those competing or supporting our athletes to perform to their absolute best at the Commonwealth Games. This inclusive relay will give everyone that can't make it to the Gold Coast a chance to be involved in an unforgettable experience.

"As the baton travels through Wales, our aim is to celebrate our rich and diverse heritage, culture, language and landscape on an international stage. The first day of the Welsh route will see the baton setting off from Swansea, travelling to our sponsor CGI's offices in Bridgend, and then on to Barry Island and Butetown in Cardiff."

The Welsh leg of the Queen's Baton Relay begins in Swansea on September 5.

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Purple plaque puts inspiring women in their rightful place

Jane Hutt AM at the launch of the purple plaques scheme with Anne Cox, Sue Essex and Assembly Members, Ann Jones, Jayne Bryant, Bethan Jenkins, Hannah Blythin, Julie Morgan, Dawn Bowden, Jenny Rathbone, Julie James, Joyce Watson, Rhiannon Passmore, and Eluned Morgan, with a photograph of Val Feld.

ON International Women's Day, March 8, Jane Hutt AM joined fellow AMs in the newly-formed Assembly Labour Women's Group to launch a bid for improved recognition of Wales' influential women.

Across Wales, the overwhelming majority of blue plaques highlight men's achievements – with the local exception of Dorothy Rees - the first woman MP for Barry. So the group came up with the idea of acknowledging the achievements of women via purple plaques.

The first plaque will recognise the work of women's rights campaigner, former director of Shelter Cymru and the Equal Opportunities Commission Wales and admired former Swansea East AM, Val Feld, who died in 2001.

Jane Hutt said: "There have been so many remarkable, inspiring women in Wales who've contributed greatly in fields from politics to science to literature. It's entirely right they should be publicly acknowledged and the purple plaque scheme will do a great deal to encourage this.

"In the Vale of Glamorgan and Barry alone, there have been so many influential women that the Vale Council launched a trail in 2013 to commemorate their achievements.

"Indeed, I recently presented the Audrey Jones awards at the Wales Assembly of Women conference – Audrey was one of our many influential Vale women – an inspiring teacher and courageous women's rights campaigner."

Vale Resort wins top 59Club award (again)

From left: Hayley Prior, Joanna Church and Louise Powell.

THE health and racquets club at the Vale Resort, Hensol, is celebrating another win at the 59Club Service Excellence Awards, after scooping best 'leisure membership sales team' for the fourth time in five years.

The team were once again named among the best in the customer service industry at the annual ceremony for 2016/17, having previously won the award in 2012, 2014 and 2015.

The Vale Resort was one of six nominated in the category, beating off competition from the likes of the Celtic Manor Resort, Cranleigh Golf and Country Club, Stoke Park, Dubai Creek Golf and Yacht Club and Emirates Golf Club.

Joanna Church, leisure operations manager, who collected the award on behalf of the Resort, said: "We are absolutely delighted and overwhelmed to have picked up the award for the fourth time in five years.

"It means the world to each and every member of our team, who are passionate and dedicated to providing our customers with first-class service.

"Joining the 59Club was a fantastic decision for us. Its criteria has undoubtedly boosted our sales capacity and we've seen an increase in membership since we joined five years ago.

"Making sure our members feel valued and looked after is pivotal to everything we do here at the Vale Resort, so when a new member of staff joins they are put through a comprehensive induction programme that ensures everyone who walks through our doors is treated like a mystery customer.

"These awards keep us focused. We certainly have no intention of giving up our title easily."

Flowers are key to bees' survival

Bombus pascuorum (common carder bee) foraging on red clover. Photograph by Claire Carvell

NEW research led by the UK's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology says that flower-rich habitats are key to enhancing the survival of bumblebees.

The results, which come from the largest-ever study of its kind on wild bumblebee populations, will help farmers and policy makers manage the countryside more effectively to provide for these vital, but declining, pollinators.

The new study, published in the journal *Nature*, used DNA technology and remote sensing to identify, map and track mother, daughter and sister bumblebees over two years to reveal that access to a range of pollen and nectar-rich flowers is vital to the survival of their populations.

There's a warm welcome to Sunday lunch at the Sully Sports & Social Club

DINING FEATURE by TIM CHAPMAN

SUNDAY lunch is a great British tradition, a time in the week for a family get-together – and it's even better if someone else prepares it and gives mum a well-deserved day off.

At Sully Sports & Social Club, 'Peter Froud Catering' provides Sunday lunch and there is a real family atmosphere in the club's original building, which boasts magnificent views across the Bristol Channel.

Recently, my wife and I enjoyed Sunday lunch, courtesy of Peter and his parents, Jules and Mike, who are very much a part of the family concern.

We were greeted warmly by Jules. who showed us to our table and explained that we could choose anything we wanted at the carvery.

Sunday lunch is £8.95 for a main course (two different meats if you wish) and you can help yourself to generous servings of roasties, greens and other vegetables. If you want a third kind of meat, it is just another £1.

I enjoyed the roast beef and Yorkshire pudding and the rich gravy. My wife decided to have turkey and pork, which she said was very tasty. As we ate our meal, it was nice to see families with people of all ages meeting up for Sunday lunch. Sully residents are lucky to have the facility on their doorstep.

Some local people turn up with plates for their lunch to be 'dished up' and taken home.

Peter is particularly proud – and rightly so – of his desserts, which are all home made. There was 'apple pie of the day', de luxe sponge puddings: for example 'lemon drizzle sponge', 'cherry and almond fudge sponge', 'toffee, chocolate and syrup sponge' all served with either cream, custard or ice-cream.

Peter also makes home-made cheesecakes, and he experiments with different flavours each week.

I enjoyed Belgian waffle with cream and ice-cream – fantastic! My wife had toffee fudge cheesecake which she said was lovely and creamy, and tasted great. Desserts run at between £3.50 and £3.95.

(The bar was open for a glass of wine, a soft drink or a beer to go with your meal.)

The Froud family and their attentive members of staff made it all an enjoyable experience.

Why not treat your mum to a day out this Mother's Day, March 26?

Peter's company also caters for weddings, engagement parties, birthdays and other special occasions. He can be contacted on 07825 604 841; www.peterfroudcatering.co.uk; or find the company on Facebook.

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Parking rethink for new homes plan

PROPOSALS for the latest development of new council homes for the Vale are being refined, following a consultation event held in Barry earlier this month.

The redevelopment of the old Brecon Court sheltered housing site will provide purpose-built homes for those who most need them.

Current proposals will see the construction of nine two-bedroom houses, four three-bedroom family houses, and 15 one-bedroom apartments reserved for older people. All of the new homes will be constructed to Welsh Government standards for social housing.

To help shape the final design of the homes, local residents were invited to a consultation event at Jenner Park on March 8.

A spokesperson for the council's housing team said: "Those who attended were generally supportive of the scheme, but raised some concerns about parking during events at the stadium. With this in mind, we will now look at amending the layout of the development to provide more car parking.

"We plan to hold a further consultation event later this year, where we hope to be able to present final plans for the scheme."

Demolition of the old sheltered accommodation at Brecon Court began in February and is likely to be completed in late spring.

Leekes win Retailer of the year award

Emma Leeke, Joanna Littlejohn and Chris Leeke receive the award.

LEEKES have been named Retailer of the Year at the prestigious Cardiff Life Awards after applying for the first time.

The family-owned retailer was recognised at the recent award ceremony, held at City Hall in Cardiff with managing director Emma Leeke proudly receiving the accolade on behalf of the company.

The awards highlight the best in local business and in making the decision between Leekes and the seven other retailer finalists, the judges recognised the company as "a true family business that has gone from strength-to-strength long term.

"Leekes are thriving and making an important contribution to the local economy."

Emma Leeke commented: "We're delighted to have been announced as winners in an extremely competitive field, as we celebrate our 120th anniversary of trading as an independent family business.

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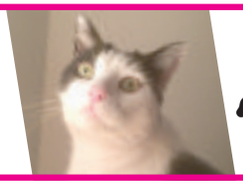

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Fun at the fete!

CATS Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is hosting an Eggstravaganza fete at the centre on Saturday, April 8.

Running from 11 am – 1pm it promises to be a fun-filled day for all the family. As well as a variety of stalls to appeal to all ages, visitors can treat themselves to delicious home-made cakes from the bake sale or join in a range of exciting activities such as Easter egg hunt, tombola, guess the weight of the cake, children's corner and much more.

Sue Dobbs, centre manager, said: "The fete is a great opportunity to have some fun while supporting the charity, which finds new homes for the many unwanted and abandoned cats that come into its care. Entry is £1 per adult, 50p per child, three and under free – so please come along and give us your support!"

Staff and volunteers from the centre will be dressing up in fancy dress to help raise funds for the charity, and also selling raffle tickets to win a range of fabulous prizes.

The centre is currently caring for 80 cats and is looking for loving homes locally.

To find out more about the fair, or to offer a cat a home, call the centre on 01656 726621, or visit the website at ***www.bridgend.cats.org.uk***

Posh Pawz would like to introduce Maddie Davies

ABOVE: Maddie with client.

MADDIE has been working with Kath and Jo of Posh Pawz, Rhoose, for almost a year bathing and drying, and is now taking appointments.

She has recently completed her grooming course at Pencoed College, and the salon are very happy that she will be developing her skills further with them.

Training grooms will be available from February 1 – 20 per cent off first appointment, and if you book and attend a second appointment with Maddie, there is a 15 per cent discount – full groom prices thereafter; only open at the moment to certain breeds. This offer is available to new, existing, and returning clients.

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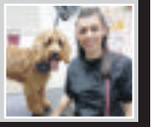

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The business was launched after studying animal care for three years and, having worked in various animal establishments, we decided to set up the business.

Over the last eight years, business has grown and grown, we now have two staff members, Natalie and Jade.

Rachel said: "Having had pets all my life – I currently have a nine-year-old boxer – I know how important it is to find the best possible care for your pets when you're not there, and this is why I set up Rachel's pet care services."

The pet care services on offer include:

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LEFT: Winston, the ball-obsessed Boxer, is one of the team at Rachel's Pet Care Services.

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WEST FARM is a well-established, small animal veterinary practice in the heart of Cowbridge.

The practice is owned by Stefano and Sonia Susanna, who purchased the clinic in January 2001.

Assistant veterinary surgeon, Emma Powell, joined the practice in June 2016, from an exotic practice in the Midlands, and has a special interest in exotic birds and reptiles.

Everyone at the practice is committed to providing the very best healthcare for pets.

They aim to provide an excellent service offering high-quality veterinary medicine and surgery to all clients.

(See West Farm's doggie friends on page 20!)

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Judie with Tucker, Caroline and Katy and Sky.

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The staff are friendly and obviously firm dog lovers! Judie, the owner, has five dogs, three of which are rescue dogs.

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"We have had some fantastic results," said Caryn, "with some really poorly dogs being cured of skin issues and other ailments by simply changing their diet."

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LEFT: Bleddyn, one of Maes Glas Vets' friendly team of veterinary surgeons, enjoys a photo shoot with the practice's star cat, Basil!

Stefano and Sonia Susanna of West Farm Veterinary Practice captured this lovely image – 'Let sleeping dogs lie!'

Blue Ridge Canine Academy

'It's our ball, get your own'.

Vets open sixth branch

MAES GLAS VETS now have six branches – the brand new Cowbridge branch, Bridgend hospital, and branches in Barry, Llantrisant, Pencoed and Porthcawl.

The dedicated staff offer everything from routine booster vaccinations, health checks and neutering to more specialist surgeries, imaging, physiotherapy and behaviour consultations.

One of the real stars of the show at Maes Glas is Basil, the practice cat, who writes Basil's Blog on their Facebook page – without any human help!

In addition to Basil, the staff all have pets of their own.

They said: "We know how important your furry family members are, so whatever your pet needs, we can help."

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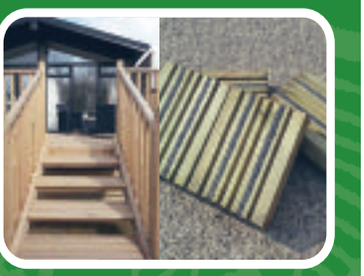

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Brian Hughes RSS, with nearly 50 years of experience and a lifetime's interest in horses, is now only offering support and advice.

Mike Hughes DipWCF, who was brought up with horses and ponies, is interested in modern remedial techniques and is currently studying for his BSc(Hons) Farriery at Myerscough College.

Rory Hill DipWCF, the youngest of the team, is familiar with the more recent developments in shoeing and shoemaking.

All work extensively with the local veterinary practices, and all three are registered with the Farriers Registration Council.

From racehorses to show-jumpers, eventers to show ponies, hunters to happy hackers, between them they have the knowledge and experience, using both traditional and modern techniques, to solve most equine foot problems.

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Local residents to fight four-storey high telephone mast on the Knap

A twelve-and-a-half metre high telephone mast has been proposed for the Knap area of Barry only days after local residents defeated similar plans in the Garden Suburb.

It is to be sited on the pavement next to the Knap's small parade of shops and restaurants on Bron-Y-Mor.

Victoria Roberts, one of the residents who successfully fought the plans for a mast in the nearby Garden Suburb, is determined to prevent the mast being built at the Knap.

The local teacher has joined forces with Knap resident and former community policeman Paul James to defeat the plans by putting pressure on the Vale of Glamorgan Council to once more refuse to lease land for the installation.

Paul James and Victoria Roberts are also ready to fight the mast through the planning system, and will be encouraging local objections to the proposal. They will also be standing for election to the Vale Council as Welsh Conservative candidates to, as they put it, "stand up for the local area and stop communities being ignored."

Mr James said, "As a Knap resident, I know that local people share my concerns at the proposed location of this new telephone mast. We need strong telecommunications infrastructure in the Vale, but it is clear that the pavement outside the shops at the Knap is a deeply inappropriate location.

"It is plain common sense that this mast will need to be located elsewhere, and I am determined to work with Victoria Roberts to ensure that this is the case."

Mrs Roberts said, "The Knap is one of the prettiest and most characterful communities in South Wales. The siting of a mobile phone mast right outside the row of shops overlooking the lake is wrong and will need to be stopped.

"The Council saw sense and refused the lease for the previous site following the local campaign – I am calling on them to do the same thing in this instance."

ABOVE: Paul James and Victoria Roberts on Bron-Y-Mor, the proposed site of the mast.

Vale MP: Only the Conservatives can secure a Dinas Powys by-pass

ABOVE: Dinas Powys Conservatives Andy Robertson, Vince Driscoll, Stephen Griffiths and Rob Crowley are petitioning week-in, week-out for a by-pass.

ONLY a Conservative-led Vale Council can deliver a Dinas Powys by-pass, according to Vale MP Alun Cairns.

Mr Cairns is a long-standing campaigner for the by-pass and, alongside Welsh Tory leader Andrew RT Davies, he has been making the case for the road to the Welsh Government.

For a by-pass to be built, the project would have to have the financial backing of the Welsh Government in Cardiff Bay and the support of the Vale of Glamorgan Council in Barry.

At the end of last year, the Welsh Government surprised by-pass campaigners by taking a more positive approach to the project, with infrastructure minister Ken Skates saying that the Welsh Government would be happy to 'play a part in facilitating a solution'.

The Labour-led Vale of Glamorgan Council however, has been hostile to the project, stating that '...(the by-pass) is not considered to be required'. The Council has also suggested that congestion issues in Dinas Powys were best solved by increased cycling and use of public transport.

Vale MP Alun Cairns said, "For the by-pass to be built, we require the backing of both the Vale Council and the Welsh Government. There is no prospect of the by-pass going ahead without a Vale of Glamorgan Council that is demanding funding for the road from the Welsh Government.

"Only a Conservative Vale Council will do this. Labour don't want to and Plaid Cymru can't take control of the Council.

"The Welsh Conservatives have made clear that we back a by-pass, with the pledge to build it appearing in our manifesto for the last Welsh Assembly election.

"I urge people in Dinas Powys to vote for the local Conservative team who are already working hard for a by-pass by petitioning for one week-in, week out.

"After the elections in May, the Vale Council will either be controlled by the Conservatives or Labour. Only a vote for the Conservatives will help to secure the by-pass."

'Excessive and inappropriate development risks the future of the Vale'

A 'tragedy' like Darren Farm 'must not be allowed to happen again' say Tories

COWBRIDGE councillors Geoff Cox, Hunter Jarvie and Andrew Parker have voiced their determination to counter "inappropriate and excessive development" as part of a Conservative administration in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The three Conservative councillors had objected to every stage of the controversial Darren Farm development, which they regard as a prime example of 'inappropriate development'.

The Darren Farm building plans were pushed through by the Labour-led Vale Council as a response to the Labour-led Welsh Government's building target of 10,000 new Vale dwellings over the decade. The development is now underway.

Mr Cox, Mr Jarvie and Mr Parker have said that Darren Farm is a consequence of poor decision-making in the Council and excessive top-down targets for the Vale from the Welsh Government.

They intend to help to form a Conservative Vale Council this May which will 'push back' against the Labour Welsh Government when they feel the Vale has been 'treated unfairly', as in the case of the 10,000 housing target. A Conservative council would also 'seek to help communities to grow on a more organic basis, to meet the local need, with input from local people and with greater sympathy to local surroundings.'

The Cowbridge councillors commented that local people have become increasingly concerned for the future of the rural Vale of Glamorgan following the start of building work at Darren Farm.

Coun Geoff Cox said, "Local people have been dismayed to see the damage to the local area that has accompanied Labour's ill-conceived development plans in Cowbridge and the surrounding villages.

"The premature destruction of hedgerows at Darren Farm, an irreplaceable part of our heritage, has demonstrated the lack of care with which the countryside is treated by this Labour Council.

"People are also highly concerned about the impact that the development will have in terms of traffic and parking in Cowbridge.

"We need to form a Conservative Vale Council at the election in May to counter the excessive and inappropriate development that so threatens the rural way of life in the Vale."

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Barry trio are determined to improve the appearance of their area

Marguerita Wright, Tony Hampton and Janice Charles clean up with Alun Cairns MP

Prospective Conservative councillors Janice Charles, Tony Hampton and Marguerita Wright have said that they are 'determined to improve the appearance' of the Illtyd ward in Barry, which they feel has been 'neglected' by Labour councillors.

The Illtyd ward contains parts of North and West Barry, stretching from Broad Street in the south to parts of Highlight Park.

The local campaigners worry that some of the basic elements of upkeep in that part of Barry have been ignored. Marguerita Wright said, "There are numerous visual improvements to be carried out in the ward and we are working vigorously to report the many potholes, faded road markings, run down bus shelters, missing or damaged street signs, blocked drains, graffiti, dog fouling, litter and fly-tipping.

"We have already been successful on several improvements. Queen Street and Island Road have been totally re-surfaced and drains unblocked. Many street signs have been replaced and the bus shelter on Severn Avenue has been re-glazed.

"We will be able to go even further to solve these local issues as councillors."

Campaigner Tony Hampton expressed disappointment that the sitting Labour councillors 'have not done more to address issues in the local area'.

Paul James and Victoria Roberts call for seagull-proof bin bag trial

As the seagull breeding season approaches, Barry is bracing itself for litter strewn streets as the birds increase their activity in search of food. Community campaigners Paul James and Victoria Roberts, Conservative candidates for the Council elections in May, are calling for a solution.

Many residential streets in coastal communities across the Vale have experienced problems in the past with seagulls opening bin bags, filling the surrounding area with rubbish. Mr James and Mrs Roberts have suggested that the solution might be 'seagull-proof' bin bags.

They are calling on the Vale Council to trial these special sacks in certain areas over a limited period of time to see if the problem is significantly reduced.

Paul James, a former community policeman in Barry, said, "There are complaints about seagull related litter every year, it is a real annoyance to local people who rightly take pride in the appearance of their community. Many residents have spent hours cleaning up their streets after these birds strike through bags."

Victoria Roberts, a local teacher and community campaigner, said, "It is well worth trialling these bin-bags to see if they can reduce the problem. This is the sort of pro-active step that the Council should be taking to try to solve recurring issues."

Paul James and Victoria Roberts want to keep Barry tidy

Local man to 'fight for village life' in Peterston-Super-Ely

Michael Morgan

A Peterston-Super-Ely man is to stand for the Vale Council on a platform of 'preserving village life'.

Michael Morgan, who is seeking to represent the electoral division containing Peterston, St Brides, St Georges, Pendoylan and Welsh St Donats, is steeped in 'village life' having worked as a solicitor locally for thirty years and through serving as a community councillor and a parochial church councillor.

He is concerned that many older Vale residents in rural areas may no longer be able to enjoy village life due to a lack of facilities, and have their quality of life and safety impaired by the increasing volume and speed traffic through villages. Michael wants to improve traffic control measures and local support for the elderly.

Stewart Edwards to tackle traffic in St Brides Major and beyond

Stewart Edwards is campaigning for safer villages

St Brides Major agricultural supplies entrepreneur Stewart Edwards is campaigning for safer roads in the village and the surrounding area

He is concerned that the speed, and in many cases the size, of traffic is 'putting local people in danger.'

Mr Edwards wants to ensure that those transporting raw materials through the village to and from the cement works at Aberthaw honour their agreement with Vale MP Alun Cairns to avoid school pick up and drop-off times.

The local businessman is standing at the Vale Council election in May, and intends to use this platform to tackle the issue of traffic that is blighting Vale communities.

Christine Cave: 'Let's keep up the momentum for better broadband'

Campaigners (right) celebrate fast broadband for Llandow with residents (left)

Christine Cave, a local community campaigner from Llandow, has expressed a desire to see 'every village in the Vale' connected to fast fibre broadband.

Mrs Cave recently celebrated Llandow's access to superfast broadband speeds with Vale MP Alun Cairns and local residents. She is determined to work with the MP to push for as much broadband cover as possible in the Western Vale.

She said, "Fast broadband is no longer a luxury, but an essential in modern life. Alun Cairns and the UK Government have already done so much to ensure access to this crucial service here in the Vale and around the country. I'm determined to keep pushing alongside him so that nowhere in the Vale goes without."

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Ceidwadwyr Cymreig | Welsh Conservatives

'Time to back the High Street' say campaigners

Janice Charles, Tony Hampton and Marguerita Wright are determined to protect High Streets

High Streets in Barry and across the Vale 'must be championed by the Council' according to local Conservatives, who worry that the future of the local shopping parades will be 'threatened' by another Labour-led Vale Council after May.

Janice Charles, Tony Hampton and Marguerita Wright, Conservative local election candidates in Barry, fear that Labour Vale councillors may bring back their plans to charge for car-parking in town centres and drive away trade.

Janice Charles said, "The Council must unequivocally champion High Streets, instead of threatening their future with car parking charges.

"We are encouraging local people to use their High Street, and would rule out introducing town-centre car-parking charges in the Vale.

"High Streets are not only the backbone of the local economy, but cherished local institutions. We know that in a changing economy, we must do all we can to protect them for future generations."

Vale villages like Wick are 'starved of local authority investment'

Stewart Edwards wants more support for communities

St Brides-based businessman Stewart Edwards has criticised the Vale Council for 'failing to invest in Vale villages'.

Mr Edwards, a prominent local figure in the West of the Vale of Glamorgan, has announced that he is to stand in the upcoming elections to the Vale Council to 'reverse the lack of rural investment' and to 'secure a better future for local communities'.

He said, "Villages such as Wick, Ogmore, St Brides and Southerndown have been deprived of facilities that are availble elsewhere, such as modern play equipment, and most importantly, community space.

"Having lived and worked in the Vale for over forty five years I feel lucky to be part of a place with such strong communities. It is disappointing that these communities are not adequately supported. For example, not enough has been done by the Council to support the fantastic Sue Lewis who is spearheading the effort for a new community centre in Ogmore.

"I want to be elected to the Vale Council to change this, and to make sure that we have a local authority that supports community life and invests in every part of the county."

Eagleswell school to become housing estate

Llantwit Conservatives want to retain the green space at Eagleswell

Llantwit Major Conservatives have accused the 'Llantwit First' Party in close coalition with Labour on the Vale Council, of adding insult to injury by preparing to build 72 houses on the Eagleswell school site.

The Labour and 'Llantwit First' controlled Vale of Glamorgan Council took the controversial decision to close Eagleswell School in 2014 and were met with local protests as a result.

Llantwit Conservatives believe that the green space in the school grounds and playing fields should be retained for the community, and have called the decision to close and sell the school for housing a 'double blow' against local people.

Coun Tony Bennett from the Llantwit Conservatives said, "We are urging the Vale of Glamorgan Council to maximise the benefits of the vacated site for Llantwit and its residents.

"Of prime concern, is the retention of at least part of the site as green space, in an area that is desperately short of amenity land. If there is to be development the views of residents living adjacent to the site should be paramount and they will be consulted accordingly."

Conservative campaigner John Deakin added, "Rather than building conventional housing, it would perhaps be beneficial to allocate some of the space to retirement or assisted living accommodation to provide suitable homes for those in need of support. This would alleviate the need for the provision of costly and increasingly scarce residential care, with the consequent significant cost savings."

Conservative Council candidate Gordon Wilkie added, " Should Llantwit Major Conservative councillors find ourselves controlling the council next May, we will instigate a full consultation process, prior to any development of this valuable site."

BONVILSTON HIT WITH 'POOR PLANNING DECISION'

The village of Bonvilston is to be 'hugely expanded to the detriment of local people' according to Councillor Jonathan Bird of Wenvoe. His comments followed a decision by Labour councillors to give the green light to 120 new houses off Pendoylan Lane at Sycamore Cross.

Coun Jonathan Bird, who voted against the development, said he was 'shocked by the disregard for the impact on the community shown by Labour councillors at last week's planning committee meeting.

Coun Bird, a prominent local campaigner against over-development, argued that the plans do not meet local need and would alter the historic character of the village.

He also spoke strongly against the Council's failure to require enough cash from the developers for education, community infrastructure, local transport and affordable housing.

Coun Bird said, "Developers are struggling to sell properties in similar new estates nearby, demonstrating that this plan is excessive.

"It is outrageous that the Vale Council reduced the contributions required from the developers by nearly £1 million and halved the number of mandatory affordable homes.

"The Labour Vale Council have rushed through this decision ahead of the elections in May, to deny people in Bonvilston and across county the chance to have their say on over-development.

"We need a new Council administration that will build sensibly, on the basis of local need, instead of this target chasing."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "Labour's decision to go ahead with this excessive and inappropriate development is bad enough, to sweeten the deal at the expense of the local community is totally unacceptable.

"Wenvoe and the surrounding villages are lucky to have such a determined and straight talking councillor as Jon Bird. If Labour lose their majority on the Vale Council, he will be able to push his plans to improve traffic management and quality of life in the local area.

"Importantly, he will also be better able to ensure common sense prevails when it comes to development."

Coun Jon Bird with Alun Cairns MP at Sycamore Cross

VAN DEN BROM AND TURNER: "SAVE ST PAULS"

St Paul's Church 'has been left to deteriorate' by the Labour-run Vale Council after it was first declared unsafe in 2011, according to community campaigners.

The Council is now proposing a deal with a housing association to convert St Paul's into apartments, with limited provisions for community use.

Wendy Van Den Brom and Martin Turner, local council candidates, have described St Paul's as a "community asset" and want to see the church act as a dedicated community centre for local groups.

Mrs Van Den Brom said: "This will be a disappointing loss for local people.

"The Council has the ability to secure St Paul's future for the benefit of all residents rather than selling our community assets to the highest bidder."

Local Conservatives say "St Paul's is a community asset"

Vale roads and pavements 'must be fixed'

Penarth's Ben Gray has concerns about the state of roads and pavements.

Motorists across the Vale have been left 'increasingly frustrated' by the state of local roads as the 'Labour-run Council fails to properly maintain our highways, despite higher council tax', according to Penarth Conservatives.

Penarth Conservative candidates Ben Gray and Kathryn McCaffer are campaigning for a comprehensive survey of Penarth's roads and the creation of a programme to repair them.

Mrs McCaffer said: "The Council's appalling job of maintaining our local roads is really showing.

"Ben and I are also concerned by the risks posed to pedestrians from loose paving.

"Despite our Council Tax bills going up, nothing is being done to get on top of the problem.

"If the Conservatives take control of the Council in May, we will create a fund to resurface roads instead of relying on merely patching them up."

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Mathew Lloyd and Gordon Kemp: 'We will deliver better transport for Rhoose'

Rhoose community activists Mathew Lloyd and Gordon Kemp, both standing as Conservative candidates for the Vale Council in May, have set out their plan to improve transport in the village.

Mr Lloyd and Mr Kemp are calling for funds used for the T9 airport express bus to be diverted to local bus routes and for an increase in the number of trains per hour arriving and departing the local railway station.

The T9 service is often called the 'Ghost Bus' or the 'M'T9 within the Vale of Glamorgan as a result its regularly low passenger numbers. Controversially, the Labour Welsh Government reduced subsidies for local bus services at the same time as increasing spending on the T9.

Mr Lloyd has described the situation as 'beyond a joke'. He said, "The T9 might be amusingly dubbed the 'Ghost Bus' or the 'M'T9, but the situation for Rhoose residents is now beyond a joke. While the T9s trundle along empty every half hour, many of the residents of Rhoose and surrounding villages including Llancarfan are not able to access a bus service at all. Residents are rightly fed up and demanding that money is prioritised and spent on local services.

"Residents who need to use public transport, particularly the elderly, find it difficult to access services, leaving them isolated and vulnerable. Labour's decision to cut local bus subsidies and splurge on the T9 must be reversed."

This view is echoed by fellow candidate Gordon Kemp who said, "The money spent on the T9 service should be diverted into providing improved transportation services for residents."

Gordon Kemp confirmed, "If elected, we will do everything we can to make sure the money currently wasted on the T9 is used effectively to provide local bus services where they are needed.

"We also want to seek an expansion of the of the train service to and from Rhoose. At the moment there is only one train an hour.

"Whilst the opening of the Vale Line during a time when the Vale Council was run by the Conservatives has been a great benefit to the village, we now need to increase the frequency of the service, particularly at peak times for commuters."

'Scrap the T9 and restore local bus services' *say Dyfan Conservatives*

ABOVE:
Andrew RT Davies is backing Mr Rowlands and Mr Bailey to restore the 98 bus service by scrapping the T9.

THE WELSH Government has been challenged to scrap the subsidy for the T9 Airport Express - with the additional money being used to restore regular services on the 98 bus in Barry, as well as other routes in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Every year the Welsh Labour Government spends half a million pounds on the T9 and despite frequently running along Port Road with no passengers, Labour ministers claim that numbers are on the rise. It has prompted new calls from Dyfan Conservatives for the subsidy to be scrapped, with that money used to subsidise a more regular service on the 98 route.

Vincent Bailey said: "If the T9 is so successful then the Welsh Labour Government can scrap the half a million pounds in subsidies that keeps it running every year, and put that money back into local services.

"We want to see regular services restored on the 98 route, which has been decimated in recent years. They need to stop wasting money on the Empty 9."

Leighton Rowlands said: "Last year the Labour-run council cut the budget for supported bus services by 12.4%, leaving local commuters with a skeletal service.

"Those cuts affect the most vulnerable people in our society, and make life a misery for commuters. You have to question the cost of this service when support for more essential services is being slashed."

'Sully ignored by Vale Council but paying through the nose' *say local campaigners*

Conservative community campaigners in Sully, Chris Thorne and Rod Thomas have hit out at the Labour-led Vale Council and the sitting councillors in Sully for 'failing to deliver a good deal for local people'.

Mr Thorne said, "The Labour-run Vale of Glamorgan Council has inflicted another inflation-busting council tax hike on local residents in Sully, Cosmeston, Lavernock and Swanbridge - this time 2.8%.

"Leader of the Vale Council – Cllr Neil Moore – has also recently outlined the 'legacy' of his Labour-run Council and sadly not one of his listed 'achievements' involved delivering for the residents and community of Sully, Cosmeston, Lavernock and Swanbridge.

"Unfortunately, what the Labour-run Council has delivered the community is a whopping 20% increase in council tax since 2012 leaving local residents rightly questioning what they have got for in return."

Rod Thomas said: "Time and time again our community has been ignored and little has been done over the last five years to improve our area.

"When you reflect, the travellers remain in situ at Hayes Road despite the broken promises of our ex-UKIP/Independent councillors, our public services are stretched beyond recognition and our transport and infrastructure is in a state of complete disrepair.

"So while Cllr Moore and the ex-UKIP/Independent musketeers might be happy with their achievements, residents in our community will not appreciate the past five years where we've been simply treated as an afterthought."

St Athan, an accident waiting to happen?

Coun Thomas at the zebra crossing in St Athan village

COUNCILLOR John Thomas is pushing a campaign to make the village safer for pedestrians after a number of reported 'near misses' at the zebra crossing.

A recent survey carried out by St Athan Community Council demonstrated strong demand for action to improve road safety. Conservative Coun Thomas has dismissed the Labour-led Vale Council's claim that the route is 'self-regulating due to bends' and is calling for active countermeasures to be taken.

"The Council must introduce road calming measures before there is a serious accident or even a fatality.

"Road safety is also an issue at the Monument junction where pedestrians take their lives in their hands to cross and with the new housing development at The Old Station Yard the number of people crossing here has increased dramatically.

"In addition, speeding traffic is a problem at the Beggars Pound dip where the police used to do speed checks. This no longer happens. It makes you wonder what they are doing with the increased precept which we all have to pay with our council tax.

"All these routes are deemed by the Council to be safe walking routes to school, I am pressing them to act before there is a serious accident here."

No move to monthly bin collections in the Vale

The Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives have announced that they will block any attempt by Labour to introduce monthly bin collections

The local Conservatives have said, "Across Wales, Labour and Plaid Cymru-run Councils are moving to monthly bin collections, which is causing havoc for communities as waste piles up and bins overflow.

"We will not allow monthly bin collections to take place in the Vale of Glamorgan."

"Tough action is required to stop fly-tipping"

Dorothy Turner and Ken Lloyd are standing for election in May

Conservative council candidates Dorothy Turner and Ken Lloyd have called on the Vale Council to do more to combat littering and fly tipping in the area.

They believe incidents should be dealt with far sooner after being reported, and want tougher penalties to deter people.

Mr Lloyd said, "I love living in Penarth, but it's often spoilt by littering and fly- tipping.

"While of course those responsible are the litterers and fly-tippers themselves, inaction by the council doesn't help.

"We therefore want incidents to be cleaned up far quicker, and tougher penalties to act as a deterrent. That way we can all enjoy the area and make it a better place."

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Out & About with The GEM

The 'tale as old as time' gets a freshen-up in Beauty and The Beast

DISNEY'S vault of animated classics has been ripe for live-action remakes, with the likes of *Cinderella* and *The Jungle Book* having had the live-action treatment recently; the next off the production line is *Beauty and The Beast*.

Dan Stevens plays the titular beast, a prince cursed to live his days in his beastly form until he learns love and is loved in return, while Emma Watson is the beauty, Belle, a girl whose dreams have outgrown the small village she lives in.

Pursued by the pompous Gaston (Luke Evans), Belle dreams of more to life, but when she takes the place of her father (Kevin Kline) who has been imprisoned by the beast, the pair start to fall for each other, aided by the castle's talking clocks, teapots and candlesticks...

It's hard enough to try and take a beloved animated Disney film and bring it up to date in live-action; when you add into the fact that the original *Beauty and The Beast* was the first-ever full length animated feature to pick up a Best Picture nomination at the 1992 Academy Awards, then it makes it that much harder.

However, you wouldn't notice if there were any pressures being felt as *Beauty and The Beast* is by far the best of the live-action Disney remakes – a stylish, visually gorgeous and a well-told story that oozes the Disney magic from every frame.

It's not surprising in a way; this is a film that uses the animated version as a pretty strict guide, and while there are embellishments along the way, there are no changes that threaten to upset the apple cart, nor is there any attempt at subverting the iconic moments of its predecessor.

The additions to this telling of the story deepen characters and their motivations, and sit particularly well in the way the story is told, but the scenes that come straight from the animated film lose none of their charm in a live-action setting.

Helmed by Bill Condon, a director whose work has always had an element of grandiose (and sometimes dark) theatricality about it, seemed on paper an

by GARETH JAMIESON
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excellent fit, and it certainly proves that on screen.

While the film has a slight gothic sensibility that befits the tone (in some places maybe even too dark for a younger audience), it also doesn't shy away from bombastic set-pieces and a scope and largesse that sit perfectly.

The musical numbers are essayed with no little style, most notably during 'Be Our Guest' which sees all manner of crockery dance like their lives depend on it, and Condon nails both the drama and the song-and-dance segments, the magic always there.

Dan Stevens is impressive behind some occasionally wonky CGI as the beast, the tortured soul that lies underneath the fur and horns never far from the surface, while Emma Watson may still be a tad too stilted as an actress, but has a good set of pipes on her and essays the role of Belle with some fire and passion that makes her a more rounded heroine.

The real joy lies in the performances beyond the leading pair; Luke Evans has a ball as the pompous (yet equally cruel) Gaston, Josh Gad as his right-hand man LeFou is maniacally enjoyable, while the voices of (in particular) Ian McKellen and Ewan McGregor as the castle's talking objects add a wonderful sense of fun to proceedings.

And for all the slightly darker moments that have that extra punch when relayed in live-action, which is what *Beauty and The Beast* succeeds at delivering; for all the tortured love story machinations, it's a welcoming and familiar slice of Disney fun, something the other films Disney have adapted from animation to live-action haven't quite managed to capture.

You'll be more than happy to be a guest of this magical film.

VERDICT – A wonderfully-realised fairytale, *Beauty and The Beast* is a triumph, a visual feast anchored by some superb set-pieces and a sense of magic. Good performances allied to strong direction make this a faithful, and captivating, live-action updated of the beloved animated original. Highly recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Cinderella* (2015), Beauty and The Beast (1991).

Railway lecture

THE next lecture of the Barry and Penarth Railway Society will be this Thursday March 23.

Local rail enthusiast Jeff Morgan will give a talk entitled: "A Railway Miscellany."

This will include items on 1960s Steam and Diesel- Hydraulics, Queen Street station, Coal from Tower, Onllwyn and G-C-G. and other items.

The talk will take place at Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth, CF64 2EZ, starting at 7 30 PM.

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What's on and where?

Bingo in Rhoose

THE committee at Rhoose Community Hall in Stewart Road is holding a fundraising Bingo afternoon this Saturday, March 15.

Doors open at 1.45pm for a 2.30pm start, with a large raffle and light refreshments at the half time break. All proceeds go towards the running of the hall . Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon!

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, March 23, there will be an illustrated lecture by former V&A curator Roger Pinkham on conceptual art and on Thursday, March 30, the society will be holding its annual Keith James Trophy awards, when members' work will be assessed by art lecture and curator Heather Parnell.

The society welcomes artists and non-artists of any level who would like to see demonstrations of various art techniques or attend illustrated lectures on art topics.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm to 9pm; visitors and new members are most welcome. For details of the society's programme and activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com and www.facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas/?ref=bookmarks.

Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning will be held at Tabernacl Hall, Derwen Road, Bridgend on Saturday, March 25 from 10am to 12 noon.

Admission (£2) includes a cup of tea/coffee, with tickets available at the door.

Proceeds to the Urdd National Eisteddfod, Pen-y-Bont, Taf and Elai, to be held in Pencoed at the end of May.

Choral concert

ON Saturday, March 25 the spring concert given by Cowbridge Choral Society, together with Pontypridd Choral Society and the Cardiff Symphony Orchestra takes place in Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun when they will be performing Dvorak's 'Stabat Mater'.

The concert at 7.30pm will be conducted by Jeff Ryan, with soloists Iona Jones (soprano), Hannah Ovett (contralto), Simon Curtis (tenor), and Stephen Hamnett (bass). Tickets from Davies Newsagent, 38 The High Street, choir members, or on the door.

New members are always welcome to join Cowbridge Choral Society, and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place at the United Free Church, Westgate St (opposite the police station) at 7.30pm on Thursdays.

Dragon Saab drive across the Barrage

ON Sunday, April 9 the south Wales branch of the Saab Owners Club, Dragon Saab are once again running their 'Spring Roll' event which includes a drive across the Cardiff Bay Barrage, which is normally banned to cars.

The day, which has proved extremely popular in the Saab Community is running for the fourth year. In 2016 we had an impressive 36 cars attending.

The day starts with the convoy of Saabs driving to the Penarth side of the barrage where we have special permission from the harbour authority to drive across it. We stop in the middle for a stunning photo opportunity then park on the Cardiff side of the barrage.

Time is then spent enjoying a pleasurable walk around the bay and a stop for coffee and cake if people want. The day continues by going back across the barrage and then for a picturesque drive around the Vale of Glamorgan and Ogmore.

This year, we have included a trip to visit the Barry Bus Depot, which houses about 40 vintage buses maintained by the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group. We are ending the day with a late lunch around 3.30pm at the Three Horseshoes pub in Moulton.

Any Saabs that want to join us can email Jane and Jonathan Jenkins on jane.jenkins20@btinternet.com

JANE JENKINS

Art exhibition marks the International Women's Day

Eileen and Jenny Allan at the Women's Arts Association exhibition.

AN exhibition celebrating International Women's Day by the Women's Art Association opened at the Vale Council's Art Central gallery recently and will run until March 25.

It includes more than 70 pieces of art work made up of paintings, textiles, photography, sculptural work and an art installation created by women from across Wales.

The open exhibition in Barry allows women at all levels of their creative careers to submit work for exhibition, enabling those less experienced to show work alongside more established artists.

This year the gallery is also celebrating work by Eileen Allan, one of the early members of the women's arts organisation. She has worked in the arts throughout her life, as a painter and teacher of drama.

Ms Allan has been an advocate for upcoming artists and has supported Art Central Gallery in this, its 10th anniversary year.

Her work can also be seen at the Travellers Gallery and Cafe at Barry train station.

Bronwen Brooks, cabinet member for housing and social care and health, said: "We are delighted to host the Women's Arts Association's exhibition at Art Central in celebration of International Women's Day. It is always an eclectic mix of work, illustrating the broad range of skills those who contribute possess."

The exhibition is easily accessed via the entrance to Barry County Library. For more information visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Art-Central-Gallery

Ty Hafan lottery draw

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D975:

- The rollover of £1,500 was won by 111607.
- **£2,000:** 138361.
- **£10:** 302749, 767187, 247589, 707680, 786665, 749857, 518178, 298767, 257885, 439812, 101486, 331647, 692183, 355272, 433616, 719799, 353493, 529859, 1137471.
- **£5:** 567728, 475729, 708279, 940000, 542074, 861042, 159876, 899818, 160295, 501272, 884950, 709794, 471083, 594692, 772064, 311435, 113044,, 154792, 758082, 261015, 560209, 882313, 147270, 366518, 562360, 735148, 802125, 325167, 845416, 176600, 533563, 363754, 818386, 630422, 582471, 158233, 546450, 470382, 923065, 207184, 557457, 707519, 721386, 872630, 105275, 709861, 338615, 375297, 648201, 880438, 589538, 237374, 257155, 132155, 126822, 823309, 699017, 669270, 1760300, 1730423.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information telephone 029 2053 2300.

'THE MEN WHO BUILT BARRY'

Early retail entrepreneurs between 1887 and 1920: Part 1

Local historian LAURIE OWEN continues his series: THIS WEEK – the growth of Barry's entrepreneurial spirit.

WORK on building Barry Docks began in 1884, with the arrival of thousands of navvies, and this quiet village soon became a bustling town – with tradesmen of all types and their families.

Shopkeepers supplied their basic needs, such as groceries, fruit and vegetables, bread and meat with some selling from their front rooms.

Others with entrepreneurial spirit and ambition, could see greater opportunities.

With regular earnings came greater spending power, and more attention could now be given to personal appearance – with emphasis on fashion for both ladies and gents and home improvement now possible.

This story will focus on just three men of vision, and while they all prospered, two of them continued to feature in the lives of future residents for many years, with one only ceasing to trade in 2005.

David Lloyd 1859-1946 was born in Llandyssiliogogo, a small village on Cardigan Bay, the second son of Thomas and Sarah. His father was farming 360 acres in 1861 and with elder son Evan (1856-1917) the family were sharing their home with five young people, recorded as servants.

John was born a year later and for whatever reason, the three sons chose not to follow the family tradition in agriculture.

David was educated at Newcastle Emlyn Grammar School and received his business training via Aberaeron, Swansea, Cardiff and London, before arriving in Barry around 1887.

In 1881, elder brothers Evan and David already had a sizable drapery shop at 24-26 Clifton Street in Roath, with nine shop assistants and a general servant living with them. Two years later, in the early hours of the morning, a serious fire broke out at their premises, destroying No 24, together with all the stock, worth between £1,500 and £1,800.

Thankfully, the living quarters were next door, so there were no injuries and even though the property was rented and the stock insured, just two months later Lloyd Brothers went into liquidation.

With Barry Docks due to open, the prospect of a fresh start brought them to town and an early advert in the Barry Dock News of 1889 illustrated their ambition.

With their earlier experience, they were soon trading to a high standard, offering a vast range of suits and hosiery, with a dedicated 'mechanics' department' specialising in clothing for all working men: fitters, boilermakers, carpenters, joiners, masons, plasterers, coal trimmers, sailors and navvies.

Significantly, they only catered for men, youths and boys, and their 'made to measure' service offered tweed suits for gentlemen, priced between 30 and 60 shillings.

Having been joined by younger sibling John, by 1891 there were three unmarried Lloyd brothers, living and trading at 89/93 Main Street, just yards from the Royal Hotel. Evan was now working as a 'Commercial Traveller in Clothing', with David and John both recorded as 'Outfitters'.

David was best man when Evan married Ada Amelia Davis at St Cadoc's Church in 1894.

The following year, he was elected to the School Board when he was described as 'one of the oldest, largest and most successful tradesmen in Barry', having already opened the second store at 72 Holton Road.

Competition was intense, not only from local tailors, such as the Garnett Bros in Barry Road and Davies & Sherwood in Holton Road, but also from many in Cardiff who advertised in the local paper, names such as J Hepworth, who rather modestly styled themselves the 'World's Clothiers'.

The establishment of the Welsh Church in Barry had begun in 1889 in a Mission Room at Iddlesleigh Street (Main Street) and David, being bilingual, had been one of the founders. Then seven years later, when the new corrugated iron Eglwys Sant Ioan was erected on a permanent site on the corner of Court Road, both David and Evan were lay churchwardens.

Brother John played an active role in the business up until 1899, but just two years later, he returned home with wife Mary and baby Mary Anne, to be a farmer next to his parents.

Evan and Ada were now living at 2 Sea View Terrace with Sarah, David, Thomas Balfour and baby Wyndham Sherston.

In 1897, as chairman, Evan ran an outing by train to the Wye Valley and Tintern for 'Cadoxton Conservative Club and Institute' and he was also a member of the Oddfellows Association. In 1904 he was elected a Poor Law Guardian and was the chairman and treasurer of the Church League, to spread the word and 'deepen the spirit of brotherhood'.

By 1908, Evan had a shop at 55 Main Street called Daisy Dairy and one day, a surprise visitor called.

PC Dan Driscoll was escorting a Russian seaman charged with murder and another for unlawful wounding, by horse and cart to catch the train to Cardiff from Cadoxton Station.

Travelling from the police station in Holton Road along Court Road and into Main Street, for some reason as they approached Evan's shop, the horse took fright and veered to the right up over the kerb, throwing the driver off his box.

In a second, the alert constable sprang out of the cart dragging the two prisoners with him, as the frantic horse struggled through the front door into the shop and collapsed in front of Evan and a few startled customers. Fortunately, there were no injuries, and they managed to help the poor creature to its feet and out into the road, where amused locals helped to restore the cart to its proper state and the short journey to the station continued.

In the 1911 census, the family were living at 49 Main Street with Evan still a commercial traveller and wife Ada a confectioner with 15-year-old Sarah assisting, most likely in the Daisy Dairy.

Tragedy struck the family when Evan died in 1917, after being in poor health for some time, quickly followed by news that eldest son David was 'Missing In Action' in France.

Meanwhile, David had married Mary Elizabeth Randell in 1897, and by 1901, they were still at 89 Main Street with sons Horace and Thomas: Irving Davies an outfitter's assistant and Sophia Thomas a domestic servant.

Now an established and successful businessman, he would play a major role in civic duties, when in 1905 he was elected a councillor for the Cadoxton ward with the message 'For Justice, Efficiency and Economy'.

He was a lifelong abstainer and temperance advocate and as a 'people's warden', was a good friend of the working classes. Over the years, his contribution to the people of Barry was considerable.

He was a JP, and at various times was chairman of the Urban District Council, the Public Works Committee, the Lifeboat Saturday Committee, and president of the Cadoxton Bowling Club.

In 1910, as chairman of the Education Committee, an interesting discussion took place as to whether schools should teach children to speak Welsh.

At first this may seem a strange topic in a Welsh town, but it should be remembered that many thousands of new residents came from England and beyond.

David and others from west and north Wales were Welsh speakers, so it was agreed to make it a voluntary system, depending on the teachers and it was duly accepted with 60 per cent support.

By 1911, the family now included six-year-old daughter Dilys Eileen and following the death of David's father Thomas in 1909, his widowed mother Sarah was living with them, together with Mary Kinsey a domestic servant.

A 1918 advert showed that at some point, the business name had been amended to 'D Lloyd & Co' while asserting that 'Quality and Price Defy Competition'.

An interesting story in the press when David was on the council in 1918, told how the Food Control Committee recommended that bakers should use potatoes with flour to make bread, thereby controlling the amount of flour being used.

During this time, it was recorded that his wife Mary Elizabeth was also active in the community, representing the Cadoxton ward of the Cardiff Union Board of Guardians and as a committee member under the Mental Deficiency Act.

Although this short story ends here, David and wife Mary would continue to live at 89 Main Street until Mary died in 1939, followed by David, seven years later.

Long-time residents will know that over time the store in Holton Road would sell a wide range of products for men and women, well into the future.

'Woolly Hat Day' for St Mungo's

AS one of the UK's largest homelessness charities, we want to thank your readers for helping to raise £18,500 so far for people who are homeless, by putting on their favourite hat, making a donation, and helping to change someone's life.

St Mungo's Woolly Hat Day took place on January 27 when thousands of people donned beanies, baseball caps and berets and more to help us raise vital funds for our work.

Our St Mungo's vision is that everyone has a place to call home and can fulfil their hopes and ambitions. We provide a bed and support to more than 2,500 people a night who are either homeless or at risk, and work to prevent homelessness.

We support men and women through more than 250 projects including emergency, hostel and supportive housing projects, advice services, specialist physical health, mental health and skills and work services.

We believe in our clients' potential. We are committed to every individual's sustainable recovery.

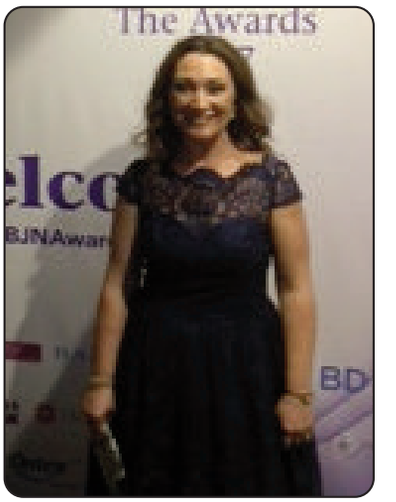
The money raised helps make a real difference to our services such as helping people off the streets. Across the country, for example, people used our unique hat cupcake recipe to bake cakes for us in schools, offices and in their homes at hat parties.

As a homeless charity, our clients are at the heart of what we do. By putting on a hat for Woolly Hat Day you helped homeless people get ahead.

Pru Sly,
Community and events manager, St Mungo's.

NURSE TARA SAYS 'HELLO' TO AWARD

TARA REES, a specialist hepatology nurse with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB), has won a British Journal of Nursing (BJN) Hepatology Nurse of the Year award for making a 'significant impact' on patient care.



Tara Rees at the award ceremony.

The BJN awards recognise individuals who do their jobs really well.

Hepatology and liver nurses play a key role in caring for very unwell patients with a range of life-altering conditions and diseases.

Tara said: "I've been a hepatology specialist nurse at Cardiff and Vale UHB for nearly 14 years.

"During this time, I have developed the hepatology nurse-led service.

"As well as managing patients with liver disease locally within the health board, I am part of the liver disease delivery plan panel and also part of the sub group for developing care pathways for patients with primary liver cancer. I was instrumental in setting up treatment clinics for viral hepatitis in the community.

"I work with an excellent team who have encouraged and supported me.

"To be recognised for the work I have undertaken made me feel extremely proud and honoured.

"Not only to have liver nursing recognised as its own entity, but also to represent Wales, was an absolute privilege."

Twenty Vale Ramblers visited Abergavenny

TWENTY Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers were curious enough to participate in this walk, making their way from Cowbridge to Abergavenny to start the walk and learn more about the history behind the title of the walk.

All was revealed at Abergavenny Castle. This had been the site of the massacre of around 70 men in 1177. They had been invited with their leader, a local Welsh Prince to a banquet by William de Braose, fifth Lord of Abergavenny.

Unknown to them, de Braose had a score to settle with the Welsh Prince and under the guise of healing old wounds, they were lulled into a false sense of security and slaughtered at the banqueting table.

Leaving the castle and its memories behind, the ramblers made their way to a more tranquil setting, the Monmouth/Brecon canal. Walking along this peaceful stretch, they enjoyed a coffee stop on the way, before dropping down to the village of Llanellen, a pretty village on the banks of the Usk River and in the shadow of the Blorenge for lunch.

Leaving the village behind, crossing the river, the walkers continued over farmland, which after the recent wet weather, was very muddy indeed. Seeing and hearing the lambs bleating reminded us that spring is on its way.

This was very much the terrain as we headed back to Abergavenny to enjoy a well earned drink in the pub prior to heading home. Thanks to Mike Carey, Adrian Rowe and Bill Fitzpatrick for leading this walk.

Further information is available at www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

GWENDA FITZPATRICK

Scarf and handbag 'swap'

ON March 25 between 10.30am and 12pm in Bethel Baptist church hall in Llantwit Major, the foodbank is holding a coffee morning and scarf, handbag and tie swap.

A spokesperson said: "Bring any of these items that you no longer want and swap them for another one. At the same time coffee and cakes will be available for a suggested donation of £3.

The charity is dependent on donations of food and sometimes money, given by people to buy everyday items of food that the foodbank may be running low on.

"These items are needed for families who are supported by the Foodbank.

"Come along, support this good cause and refresh your wardrobe."

'Silent thief of sight' warning

LOCAL RESIDENTS are being warned about the dangers of glaucoma and the importance of having regular eye tests, during World Glaucoma Week (March 12-18).

Described by some as the 'silent thief of sight' due to its gradual onset, it affects about one in 50 people aged over 40 in the UK, and is the leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide.

Specsavers has teamed up with the World Glaucoma Association and International Glaucoma Association to launch a £1 million awareness campaign aimed at increasing understanding of the condition and the importance of regular eye tests.

Nick King, director at Specsavers in Maesteg, said: "Glaucoma symptoms, unlike those of other eye conditions, often don't manifest until the damage is irreversible. For that reason, it is vital people don't just have eye examinations when they notice an issue, but regularly, to ensure that their eye health is monitored."

For further information or to book an eye test at your nearest Specsavers store, call 0800 068 0241 or log onto www.specsavers.co.uk.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA?

Friends of Barry Beaches

THE next litter pick by Friends of Barry Beaches will be on Sunday, March 26 at Jackson's Bay. Volunteers should meet at the bottom of the path, near the toilet block at 3pm.

Litter pickers and bags are provided, but would volunteers please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Children are always welcome, but we ask that they are accompanied by an adult.

We look forward to welcoming volunteers, old and new to help keep Barry's beaches clean.

Mothering Sunday service

ON March 26, All Saints' Church in Victoria Square, Penarth is holding a special family service for Mothering Sunday at 10am.

Come along to give thanks for mothers and all who care for us throughout our lives.

The worship will include items suitable for all ages, and flowers will be presented to all the ladies. Creche facilities are available and refreshments served after the service. All welcome.

Barry Library Monday Reading Group

COME and join our friendly group on Monday, March 27 from 6pm to 7pm at Barry Library, King Square, Barry. Contact Melanie on 01446 422419.

Easter fun day

AN Easter fun day event takes place on Saturday, March 25 from 11am to 3pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Woodland Place, Penarth.

There will be various stalls including an Easter egg hunt, lucky dip, arts and crafts – and lots more. For further details or to book a stall, contact Laura on 07702873067.

Tax advice surgery

ARE you worried about tax issues? Do you know if you are paying the correct amount? Are you nervous about approaching the Inland Revenue?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a free tax advice surgery on Monday, March 27 from 9.30am to 11.30am. No appointment is necessary, just come along to Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. Home visits can be arranged if needed; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Why not test your flying skills?

BARRY Aero Modellers are holding an open night between 7pm and 9pm on Tuesday, March 28 at Barry Island Community Hall.

Come and test out your flying skills for free using our micro aeroplanes and perhaps become a member of the group.

If you're interested in model flying of all types of flight, you are welcome to come along and see what we have to offer. For further details, contact Rob on 07542 781837.

Prostate Awareness

IF you have recently been diagnosed with prostate trouble, or are caring for someone who has, help and support is available.

In Prostate Awareness Week, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a drop-in health information session.

Come chat to a health care professional from Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust about local support on Tuesday, March 28, at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry from 10am to 12pm; no appointment is needed. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Llantwit Major Horticultural Society

THE next meeting will be Wednesday, March 29 at 7.30pm at Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major when our speaker will be Mr Glyn Canter talking about the plight of the honey bee.

New members and visitors always welcome.

Past captain wins golf club's winter prize draw

Lorraine Pointon-Bell receives the prize from general manager Derek Smith.

THROUGH the winter months, Cottrell Park Golf Resort has been running a weekly members' prize draw with a cash prize that increased each time by £50.

The prize pot started at £500, and was drawn on a Thursday. In addition, the club also hosted a quiz and offered food specials.

The quiz was compiled and hosted by members of the club and members and visitors were encouraged to take part.

The prize draw was not won and increased to £1,200 by the last draw earlier this month, when Lorraine Pointon-Bell's name was drawn.

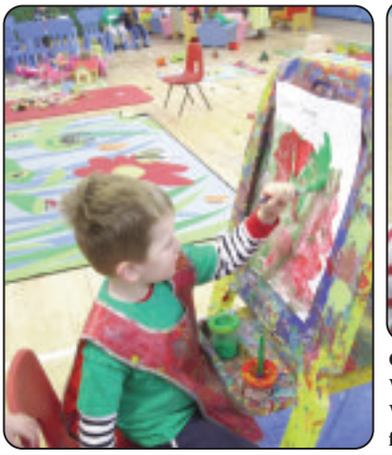
All members were added to the draw since its launch in October whether they attended or not but those that did attend had their names added each week, therefore increasing their chances of winning.

The concept was to encourage members to support the club through the dreary winter months when generally the clubhouse is quiet.

Lorraine, who is also a past captain of the ladies section was delighted with her win and has used some of her winnings to pay her annual golf subscriptions.

The club intends to run the incentive again this winter.

Playgroup celebrate St David!



CYLCH BETHESDA playgroup celebrated St David's Day and World Book Day. The children painted dragons, learnt the Welsh national anthem, dressed up and discussed their favourite book characters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on March 30 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, when Dr Ben Mathew will speak on 'A Chiropractor's Guide to Safe Gardening'. New members welcome.

Spring fair

THE Windsor Bowling Club is holding its spring fair on Saturday, April 1 at the clubhouse in Robinswood Crescent, Penarth.

It starts at 10 am, entry £1.50 to include a drink and a hot cross bun.

There will be lots of stalls: cakes, bottles, plants, books, jewellery and toiletries, bags and scarves, household items as well as a raffle, games and also a lucky dip.

Neighbourhood Watch

A RESIDENTS' meeting will take place to mark one year of Highlight Park Community Neighbourhood Watch scheme, working on behalf of residents to raise awareness of safety issues.

The meeting focuses on home security and will cover advice from the following organisations: South Wales Police, Safer Vale, South Wales Fire Service and VOG Securities.

The meeting will be held at 6.30pm on April 4 with refreshments served at 6pm in Highlight Park Community Hall.

Concert at the Tabernacl

TABERNACL Music Society are holding their spring concert, 'A Celebration of Welsh Music' on Sunday, April 9 at 7pm at Tabernacle Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend.

Also taking part are young soloists on piano, harp, and saxophone. The concert will be conducted by Matthew Nash and accompanied by Glen Crooks.

Tickets £8; for further details go to *cor-tabernacl-choir.co.uk*.

SPORTS DAY FOR THE AIR CADETS

RECENTLY, 24 air cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron travelled to MoD St Athan for a range of sporting fun activities.

The aim was to inspire the air cadets to enjoy and participate more frequently in sports, while improving their fitness and stamina.

This was also a great social opportunity meet cadets from other squadrons and make new friends.

During the day, the cadets tried their hand at archery, bench ball, fun circuits, soft ball, trim trail, Unihoc, spin bikes, tug of war, crab football, ultimate Frisbee and visually impaired football, using all the gym facilities.

Each session allowed the cadets to try the many sports on offer, especially non-traditionalsports which the cadets may never have tried before.

Helen Gibson was on hand to raise the awareness and work of RAFA Youth and Sergeant Carl Graham from RAF careers attended to provide a range of sporting activities.

Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, Sports Officer for No.1 Welsh Wing said: "The cadets experienced a range of sports with the focus on fun to inspire the cadets to participate more often in sports.

"Several instructors from No.1 Welsh Wing gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to ensure the sports day was a great success."

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7pm to 9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour or you can the Squadron on 07486 501864; email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org.uk for more information.

Quality Skills Alliance honours top apprentices at awards ceremony

The winners at the QSA Awards.

SIXTEEN top apprentices have had their hard work and dedication celebrated at a special awards ceremony.

Employers and practitioners who have gone that extra mile in their commitment to work based learning were also recognised at the ceremony, held in the spectacular surroundings of Cardiff and Vale College's city centre campus and hosted by Lucy Owen.

The apprentices' commitment was celebrated at the fourth annual awards ceremony held by the Quality Skills Alliance – a consortium of work-based learning providers made up of 22 partners and subcontractors.

The awards celebrate excellence and achievement, and the winners were chosen by a panel comprising the QSA's chair – CAVC chief executive Kay Martin – and board.

The overall award for Apprentice of the Year went to Tom Grainger, who is employed by Mercedes Benz, Cardiff and Newport, and through rapid development completed his apprenticeship in June last year.

This year saw the first junior apprenticeship award. recognising the achievements of Cardiff and Vale College's Junior Apprenticeship programme.

The first ever winner of the award is 16-year-old Caine Meredith, who is on CAVC's auto pathway.

Chloe Davies, a Cardiff and Vale College Apprenticeships (CAVCA) learner, won the hair and beauty award.

She started as a full time learner but moved over to an apprenticeship and despite having to change salons in the middle of her framework, she was able to progress from Level 2 to Level 3 Hairdressing, complete her course and is now in full time employment at The Business in Dinas Powys, where she also manages the salon's Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Alex James is employed as an apprentice by The Classroom, Cardiff and Vale College's restaurant. A hard worker who has become an integral part of The Classroom's AA college rosette-winning team, Alex has represented the college in the Skills Wales competition.

CAVC runs a successful apprenticeship scheme with Deloitte at its Cardiff Delivery Centre. Business administration award winner Brandon Lee Evans completed his apprenticeship before his expected end date, setting himself ambitious targets. Now employed full time at Deloitte, he is keen to enter its Bright Spark programme in 2017.

The health and social care award was won by CAVCA apprentice Laura Gurd. Laura has been with Fun Start Childcare since it opened in Cardiff and greets every new challenge with enthusiasm, excitement and passion.

The role model award was won by former creative and digital media apprentice Dewi Foulkes for his work at special effects firm Real SFX.

The special recognition award went to vehicle accident repair apprentice Chris Jones. A talented spray artist, Chris has represented CAVC at World Skills and came second – his decorated car bonnets are also used to promote the College's auto courses at events.

Michelle Owen of CAVC and Danielle Williams of NDGTA both won practitioner's awards for their exemplary support to apprentices and colleagues, adding to value to their organisations.

Employers were also celebrated for their commitment to apprentices. Arnold Building and Carpentry won the small employer award while the Salvation Army Lighthouse/Tŷ Gobaith won the medium employer award. BBC Cymru Wales and Enrsys both won the award for large employers.

A special new employer award went to Signature Living, for its commitment to apprentices at its redevelopment of the Coal Exchange.

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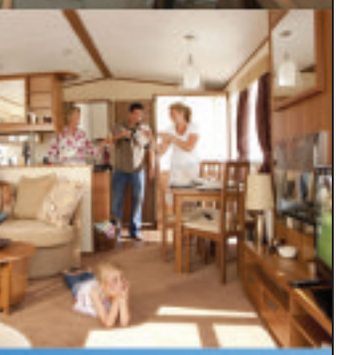

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'FILM & COMIC CON' DRAWS FANS TO CARDIFF'S MOTORPOINT ARENA

THE 'FILM & COMIC CON' took place at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff, on March 4, and photographer Andy Wicks was on hand to capture a wide of array of colourful characters.

Some were star guests from film and TV, others were fans dressed up as their favourite characters.

Genres included sci-fi, horror, comics and the occult – it was truly a fun and entertaining festival

IMAGES by ANDY WICKS

Penarth Hockey Club round-up

PENARTH Hockey Club's bid for a hat-trick of GoCrea8 League success stories will culminate this weekend as the second XI's victory over 2015-16 nemesis Swansea University sets up a shoot-out against De Cymru One promotion rivals Bridgend.

SWANSEA UNIVERSITY B 2, PENARTH A 7

Penarth travelled to Swansea knowing a win against the university could see them promoted if third-placed Bridgend failed to get three points of their own but, having drawn 4-4 with the students in the home fixture, the Bears also knew it would be a difficult encounter against a free-scoring and recently improved student side.

Penarth started well and had the university pinned in their own half during the opening exchanges, but failing to convert several good chances ensured that the game remained scoreless until Swansea's resolve was broken midway through the half.

David Tipping, making a cameo appearance during a holiday back in Penarth, provided the spark, smashing a reverse stick shot goalwards which was deflected past the hapless student keeper by Phil Lane.

The lead was short-lived however, and Swansea were back on level terms almost immediately when they dispossessed the Bears' defence and broke through on goal, with a two-on-one advantage giving Penarth keeper Simon Comfort little chance of preventing the equaliser.

Despite being pegged back, the visitors remained dominant and continued to press, while Swansea only posed a real threat on the counter-attack, where some resolute last man defending from Joe Wells and Jamie Davison - and a few excellent saves from Comfort kept the students from adding to their tally.

The threat on the counter notwithstanding, Penarth continued to create chances and eventually struck the vital blow as a well-worked penalty corner routine saw Lane find Dave Stevens, who scored for his third game in a row.

Going into half-time at 2-1, Penarth's lead remained tenuous – but not for long. With the next goal likely to be crucial to the outcome, the Vale side ensured that it was one that stretched their advantage, with Chris McCarthy hounding the Swansea defence into an early high turnover, with Lane again capitalising to make it 3-1.

The opportunist completed his hat-trick shortly after, this time with centre back Craig Llewellyn tackling aggressively to win possession high up the pitch before Lane drove into the 'D' and fired home.

Although the hosts grabbed a superb consolation goal to make it 4-2, such was the dominance of Penarth's performance that it never really looked like a comeback was on the cards. Lane grabbed his fourth to restore the Bears' three-goal lead, and added a fifth for good measure, this one the pick of the bunch, beating several Swansea defenders before firing a reverse stick shot into the top corner.

The scoring was rounded off by Sam Chick, a defence-splitting pass from Andy Strong finding the captain in the opposition 25 before his square ball to Tipping was diverted into his own net by the covering Swansea defender.

Unfortunately for Penarth, their 7-2 victory was all but matched by their Bridgend rivals, and sees them take just a slender one-point advantage into the last game of the season.

With the fixture essentially becoming a promotion play-off final, if the Bears can avoid defeat they will retain second spot in De Cymru 1 and guarantee elevation to De Cymru & the Marches 2 for 2017-18.

PENARTH 6, ROBINSONS A 3

A week on from securing their second successive promotion as champions, the first XI were as hungry as ever as they faced promotion-chasing Robinsons in their last home game of the 2016-17 league campaign.

With the wind in their back, the Bristol-based side came out hot and put Penarth on the back foot early on. They were quickly rewarded for their endeavour too as, flooding men forward, the ball eventually found its way to an unmarked attacker at the back post, who gave the visitors the lead within five minutes of the start.

This, however, only served to awaken the sleeping Bears, who wasted no time in restoring parity.

Winning a penalty corner, Laith El-Khatib's drag flick was illegally stopped on the line, and the resulting penalty flick was comfortably dispatched by player/coach Ben Croxall.

Penarth have hit a rich vein of form from penalty corners of late, and were at their clinical best once again, adding two quick set-piece goals to open an advantage before the interval.

There was no stopping El-Khatib's second drag flick of the game and, not to be outdone, Croxall stepped up to convert from the top of the 'D' to make it three-from-three heading into half-time.

Despite holding a commanding margin, Penarth knew that, if Robinsons could snatch the next goal, it would be game on once more, but the Bears ensured that there would be no ramping up of the pressure as they scored almost immediately from the restart.

Once again, the strike came from a penalty corner, this time with injector Sam Williamson reacting quickest to a save to grab his first goal of the season. Robinsons lined one up from the top of the 'D' to peg a goal back.

The visitors immediately pulled their keeper off and went to a kicking back for one last throw of the dice, but it proved to be a gamble too far as Croxall immediately threw an aerial over the back line for his front front three to chase, leaving Chris Baker with an empty net to tap into.

Robinsons continued with the kicking back tactic, hoping that the spare outfield player would give them an advantage, and duly overloaded the Penarth defence to grab a third goal.

The Bears, however, showed that they remained the superior side, taking the ball straight up the other end to win a final penalty corner. With no recognised keeper in the defensive cordon, the visitors were sitting ducks and El-Khatib made no mistake to score his second and give Penarth a 6-3 victory.

PENARTH B 4, PENARTH C 1

The final Penarth derby of the 2016-17 campaign proved to be the best of the lot as, with promotion for the B team already confirmed, both sides relaxed and played out the most entertaining game seen at this level all season.

A strong opening from the senior side saw them exerting constant pressure, but the 'C-siders' defence, marshalled expertly by James Davies, stood firm and, turning the tables with almost their first serious attack of the game, were rewarded with a surprise lead as a lightning fast break involving Dave Kidby and Adam Morse swept the ball up the field before Marc Sawyer finished coolly.

However, Simon Wilkinson sent the teams into the break on level terms.

Watkins reorganised his troops at this point, making what turned out to be a decisive change by moving Richard Skone into a playmaking role from which he was able to dictate much of the second half.

With the clock starting to run down, however, the dam broke at last and the senior side were able to pull away, starting with Dave Thomas scoring from close range following a fine passing move and a quick one-two with Skone at the top of the 'D'.

The breakthrough was followed by two more rapid-fire goals as Wilkinson got his second with a neat piece of opportunism, and Skone rounded off a man-of-the-match performance with a quality finish to another slick move.

The final Saturday of GoCrea8 League action sees all four Penarth sides in action, with the second XI's encounter with Bridgend at Stanwell (noon start) taking top billing.

Both first and third XIs are away this weekend, at Yate and Swansea City respectively, while the fourths bring the curtain down on their first season in 20 years by providing the opening act at Stanwell (10.15am start).

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Indira Varma from Torchwood and Game of Thrones.

ABOVE: Don't hire these two to cut back that overgrown tree!

Bail Ling from Star Wars.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Poppy (aged 12) leads runners home in Fun Run at the Bay

Poppy Burton-Dickie.

THE George Thomas hospice care Bay5K Fun Run sponsored by Western Power Distribution was run recently in glorious sunshine.

The annual 5K fun run takes place in beautiful Cardiff Bay and, this year, was started by Barry's world featherweight champion, Lee Selby.

The first runner home was 12-year-old Poppy Burton-Dickie in an amazing 19 minutes. Poppy also raised an amazing amount of sponsorship too, raising over £1,300.

Poppy said: "I like running and I was determined to raise lots of money for George Thomas Hospice Care, which gives such wonderful care to people such as my Grandpa."

Lee Selby said: "I was delighted to start today's fun run. I would have liked to run but I've been told to rest after winning my contest last weekend. Having said that, I think I'd have struggled to keep up with Poppy!"

Barry students tread the boards and try their hand at the ukelele!

STUDENTS at Barry Comprehensive School have been given the opportunity to participate in a series of music and drama workshops.

The UCAN project allowed pupils a chance to develop their literacy, communication, planning and group presentation skills.

The sessions were delivered by experienced and qualified instructors, some of whom are professional actors that have appeared in well-known programmes, including Hollyoaks and Coronation Street!

Students were able to demonstrate their musical abilities by learning to play some songs on the ukulele. They also performed drama pieces, including 'The Incomplete Works of William Shakespeare', which was set in Barry, and a historical account of Welsh folklore.

At the end of the project, a performance was given to parents and supporters of the school. All of the pupils had a very worthwhile, enjoyable and interesting experience.

AC

Rich John Tomeldan produced radio announcements for each part of the performance

Connor O'Kelly sang a solo.

Brandon Barrett, Jamie King and Lewis Tipples using the 'Giant' puppet.

Local AM reinforces the importance of STEM roles

VALE AM Jane Hutt brought primary and secondary schools together with some key companies from across the Vale to discuss how they can work together to reinforce the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) roles in education and employment in Wales.

Around 60 representatives from across the Vale attended the Engineering Change Breakfast, which was held at Cardiff and Vale College's purpose-built aerospace campus International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT) at Cardiff Airport.

Ms Hutt said: "Practically all of our schools were represented, along with many of our key companies. It was noticeable that all of the companies said yes to the invitation almost immediately. They recognise how important it is that we encourage and nurture our young people particularly from our local schools to consider STEM subjects.

"I was pleased to welcome Aston Martin to the breakfast. The last time Aston Martin was at ICAT was for its recruitment drive, which saw thousands of people queue to register their interest in working for it."

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The Vale of Glamorgan will be covered by Lisa Snooks, who has lived in Barry all her life. With over 12 years experience, Lisa has extensive knowledge within this particular property market, having worked for independent & corporate agents locally. Lisa's love for the property Industry shows in her great work ethic & great attention to detail, and she is not afraid of "going the extra mile for her customers".

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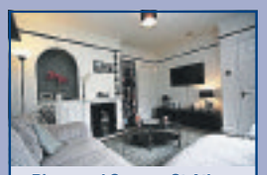

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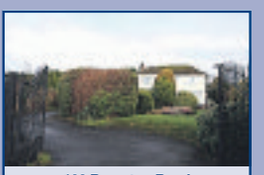

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We need fit reliable people to help distribute the Glamorgan GEM newspaper to local homes, once a week.
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• ACTIVE SENIOR CITIZENS
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The Glamorgan GEM — Newmarket Holidays

Battlefields of World War One
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4 days from £249.00, 9 Jun, 15 Sept & 6 Oct 2017
Visit some of the most poignant and important sites.
Highlights & inclusions
- Full day exploration of the Somme
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Visit www.newmarket.travel/glg16016
These holidays are organised & operated by Newmarket Promotions Ltd. ABTA V787X. Subject to availability. Single supplements apply. Standard phone charges.
ABTA Travel with confidence

Family Notices

SHAW
John Stevenson

On March 16 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Jack of Llantwit Major, beloved husband of Claire.

Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, April 3, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Alzheimers Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

WHITELEGG
William

Peacefully on March 3, 2017, Bill, aged 84 years. Beloved husband of the late Eileen, much loved father of Paul and Helen, cherished Gramps and Bobo to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Bill will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, Llantwit Major, until the funeral service at St Illtyds Church on Friday, March 24 at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for the RNLI c/o the funeral director.

To reflect Bill's personality, the family request a splash of colour to be worn.

ENGLAND
Terence James Anthony (Terry)

A very sudden and unexpected passing but peacefully in the Princess of Wales, Bridgend on 25th February, Terry, aged 80 years of Llantwit Major, originally from Dinas Powys. A dearly beloved and devoted dad to Bethan and Gramps (Bampy) to his seven grandchildren Connor, Hollie, Chloë, Calum, Kiran, Eilora, Zofeyah.

He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting peacefully at W.A. Brown & Sons. Funeral service to take place on Friday, 24th March at Our Lady & St Illtyd Roman Catholic Church, Llantwit Major at 10am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30am. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home or donations to Marie Curie Hospice, Holme Tower and/or Cancer Research UK in memory of Terry England.

BOND
Pamela

Suddenly on 10 March, aged 75 years. Mum to Tommy, Susan and Jean and nanna to Caren, Ashley and Jonathan.

Pam will be missed greatly by all who knew her.

Resting at Penybont Funeral Services, Bridgend until her service at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, 27 March at 11.30am. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to British Heart Foundation.

DALBY
Brian

Unexpectedly Brian passed away at the UHW Cardiff on 13th March 2017, aged, 47. Loving father to three daughters and two grandchildren.

Will be greatly missed by all the family and friends

Resting at James Summers & Son, Chapel of Rest, Lavernock Road, Penarth, until his funeral on Tuesday, 28th March at 1pm, at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu, if desired, to Recovery Cymru, 232 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HS care of the centre, the funeral director, or online at https://localgiving.org/recovery-cymru.

HUGHES
Edward (Ted)

It is with great sadness we announce the death of Ted, aged 85, who passed away peacefully at home on March 8th. Beloved and cherished husband of Margaret, much loved dad to Derek, Anne, Allison and Lewis. Adored grandad of Bethan, Lewis, Rhian, Dylan and Dulcie and loving father-in-law to Steve, Sara and John.

Ted will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service on Friday, March 31st at 12 noon at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only. Donations, if so desired, by cheque to the Alzheimer's Society, c/o Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB.

TUCKER
Mary Elizabeth
(Née Williams)

Peacefully on 11 March, aged 88 years, at Milsom House Care House, St Athan, after a long illness. Loving wife of the late Dilwyn, sister of Gilbert and the late Margaret. Sister-in-law of Rose and much loved aunty to Steve, Paul, Julie and Lisa and all her great nieces and nephews.

Resting at Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 24 March at 10am. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EJ.

ROGERS
June Patricia
Née Bennett (Formerly Brennan)

The family wish to announce the sad passing of June on March 18th at the University Hospital Of Wales. Beloved wife of the late Derek (Rod) and much loved mum of Ticia, Richard, Robert, Tina, Jane and David. A respected mother-in-law, cherished nan and great nan to all her grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and close friends.

June is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at St Peter's Church, Lettons Way, Dinas Powys on Friday, April 7th at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family floral tributes only - donations if desired may be made at the service or via June's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories.

All donations received to support Marie Curie Hospice.

GORE
Thomas William B.E.M.

Peacefully on 21st March in Milsom House, Tom, aged 81 years, of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of Brenda, dearly loved dad of Karen and the late Stephen. Devoted granddad to Sophie, Isabel and James.

He will be greatly missed by his loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, Llantwit Major until the funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, 28th March at 10.30am.

Family flowers only please.

In Memory

LEON ASHLEY PAYNE

We only have a picture now,
A frozen piece of time to remind us of how it was, when you were here with us.
Miss you forever
Love Mum and Emma xxx

STEWART
Hagar Rosina Margaret
(Known as Maggie)

Mother's Day - In Memory

No cards or gifts today mam, only loving memories.

Always in our thoughts.

Love always
Annette, Jean and Christopher xxx

HARVEY
Gerrard Steven

Two tired eyes are sleeping,
Two willing hands are still,
You worked so hard for one and all,
Now resting as God's will,
Words are few,
Thoughts are deep,
Now you have eternal sleep.

Good night, God Bless Gerrard.
With love Maggie and George.

Acknowledgements

ROGER BEECHEY

Passed on 30 March 2014

Thanks for the memories,
Love Frances

TO ADVERTISE YOUR **SITUATIONS VACANT, FAMILY NOTICES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, ETC** **Call Sue on 01446 774484.** email: **sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

DENNIS
Val

Louise, Violet, Gill and Jeff would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for attending Val's funeral.

Thanks to Father Chris for a lovely service and to those who donated to Ty Hapus.

BOWKETT
Bob

Sheryll and family wish to thank relatives, friends, neighbours and the RAF who attended Bob's funeral. The family would also like to thank those who sent messages of sympathy and donations for Bob's chosen charity.

Thanks also to Reverend Heather Weddell for the lovely service and Andrew Thomas of Thomas Brothers for the efficient arrangements made with sympathy, care and understanding.

Anniversaries

Diamond Wedding Anniversary!

March 23rd

To a wonderful mum and dad

Sid and Jean Pycroft

Congratulations on your very special day

All our love Paul, Tracey and Chelsea, and your very much loved grandchildren Christian, Eirian, Aoghan and Meurig

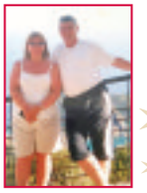
Happy Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Mum and Dad
(Sharon & Sandy Hutcheon)
On 26 March

Lots of love
Nichola, Scott, Melanie, Michelle, Rhys, Chelsea, Arianne and Eleri xxx

40th
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
on 26 March

Sharon & Sandy Hutcheon



To my gorgeous wife, thanks for the best 40 years of my life.
All my love Sandy xxx

Thank You

THANK YOU
80

Brian Acott would like to thank family and friends for making 18th March such a special occasion.

Situations Vacant

The GEM
EDITORIAL VACANCY

The Glamorgan GEM has a vacancy for a journalist to join a busy news team producing our four weekly print titles and digital edition.

We are looking for someone with drive and initiative to help widen our coverage of local news and issues.

You will need to be self-motivated; able to work quickly and accurately under pressure of tight deadlines; and be willing to go the extra mile as a fully-committed, flexible team player in a demanding role.

Apple/Mac familiarity an advantage, but training will be given. Salary negotiable, depending on experience.

Apply with full cv (marked 'EDITORIAL VACANCY') to: Don John, Editor, The Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

Email don.john@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Personal Assistant(s) Wanted

A disabled man in the Pontyclun areas offering a part time job for up to 24 hours per week. The purpose of the job is to support with all aspects of daily living.

£7.50 per hour. Driver essential.

Call Dewis on **01443 827930.**

Charity No. **1098229** Quote ref: **DP208**

Robertsons Legal Limited

in its Barry office is looking to recruit an experienced legal secretary.

The applicant should be fully conversant with residential conveyancing and probate work. This is a full time permanent position.

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Salary available on request and dependent on experience. Please do not apply if you have no experience in both of the above areas of work.

Apply sending your cv by e-mail to : **k.hoskins@robsols.co.uk** or Kay Hoskins, 6 Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3RS.

WANTED TELEMARKETER SALES PERSON

Work from home, hours to suit. Results-driven, persistence, good at time management. Selling to customer needs, excellent commission, unlimited earnings. Application by email only to: neil@moneymassmarketing.com

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RECRUITING WEEKEND STAFF NOW!

£8 per hour plus mileage & holiday pay. For immediate interview call: **01446 747777**

The GEM
01446 774484

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- TEENAGERS (aged 13 years and over)
- ACTIVE SENIOR CITIZENS
- HOUSEWIVES - STUDENTS SHIFT WORKERS

Please ring: **01202 811666**

email **info@thedistributionbusiness.co.uk**

If we do not have an immediate vacancy in your area, your details will be placed on our waiting list until a suitable opportunity occurs.

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. **For Motors** - £24 inc. VAT for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

Acorn
Slimline Stairlift
for straight stairs.
Price includes fitting by trained engineer.
£500
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3x 2 seater sofas, 2 reclining chairs
All in ivory leather
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Mantis petrol garden tiller **£105.** McCulloch petrol strimmer **£50.** Qualcast electric grass trimmer **£30.** Wolf electric power washer **£60.** All in good condition.
01446 737235 12

Bee Hives for Sale
National Hives
01656 860597
(answer phone available) 11

Dry Wood for Sale for wood burning stove.
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01446 774360 12

FOR SALE
Table Tennis Table - Kettler, All weather. Full Sized. Folds. New condition. **£100**
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Approx 35 Shrubs. Height 18 to 24 inches.
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JSTKD students impress at the English Championships

THE team from JSTKD Martial Arts & Fitness were in unstoppable form at the recent English Tae Kwon Do Championships, returning home with two new champions, as well as an assortment of medals.

The team comprised: Menna Burmingham, Rhys Doel, Josh and Sean Edwards, Alex Munn, Zak and Joe Grinter, Alisha Roberts and Cai Selby.

Unfortunately, two team members (Harri Burmingham and Sion Selby) were unwell so were not able to attend.

First on was Menna, who was competing in the girls black belt patterns - a very hotly contested event!

Menna had to go through three increasingly pressurised rounds, each time having to deliver her intricate pattern with the same level of accuracy and composure.

In the final head-to-head round, she gave an unbeatable performance, to claim the coveted title of English champion.

However, she was still not finished winning medals, and added a hard won bronze in the girls middleweight black belt sparring event.

More black belt action came from Josh and Sean, who both put in a great effort in the sparring events but didn't quite make the finals this time - although Josh didn't come home empty-handed as he went on later, to take part in the black belt boys tag team event where his team claimed the silver.

JSTKD's reigning north Wales champion, Rhys, was also in action in the boys middleweight black belt sparring. After getting past the preliminary rounds, he reluctantly found himself bowing out to the eventual winner.

Across in the colour belts, the other team members were also making sure they made their mark.

Joe, the newest and youngest team member, turned in a storming performance, to go through each of his many rounds with a remarkably cool head.

Finding himself in the final, he continued to keep his focus and scooped the well-deserved English champion trophy in the boys tiny tots yellow belt division.

Big brother Zak was making short work of his opponents too in the boys peewee green belts and thanks to a variety of great kicks, clinched the bronze.

Alex Munn was equally busy in the boys' lightweight green belts. He put up a fantastic fight, not even conceding a point in his first round, and eventually came away with the silver.

There was another top-notch performance from Alisha in the girls' middleweight blue belt sparring. Despite being new to this division, Alisha was in fine form, using her skills to great effect to collect a well-earned bronze medal for her efforts.

In the boys' lightweight yellow belts, Cai made sure he made things as difficult as possible for his opponent before leaving the competition.

JSTKD offers a free taster lesson for all new students who would like to try Tae Kwon Do for themselves - full details at www.jstkd.co.uk. **VW**

Motors For Sale

Ford Focus 1.6 Sport
Silver, petrol, 104,000 miles, 12 months MOT, VGC, 4 brand new tyres.
£995 ono
07988 560994 12

2006 Smartcar Auto
Black & Cream, 698cc, 12 months MOT, 47,000 miles.
£1,995 ono
01446 794620 12

A frosty sunrise – CAPTURED BY LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

LOCAL photographer Sue Dobbs headed out early one morning recently, to capture the sunrise over Heol Lathog – and it proved well worth the effort, as she was rewarded with this dazzling shot. (You can see more of Sue's work on http://susandobbsphotography.co.uk)

Public Notice

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 5 BONVILSTON)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

On the 2 March 2017 the Welsh Ministers confirmed the above Order made under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath running from NGR 30637 17406 to NGR 30615 17437 to a line running from NGR 30637 17406 to NGR 30615 17437 as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Docks Office, Subway Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on 2 March 2017, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 23 March 2017 make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 23 March 2017

HYSBYSIAD CADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS
DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980
GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR CERDDED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 5 TRESIMWN)
GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014

Ar 2 Mawrth 2017 cadarnhaodd Gweinidogion Cymru y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd dan adran 119 Deddf Priffyrdd 1980.

Bydd y Gorchymyn hwn, fel y'i cadarnheir, yn gwyro'r llwybr cerdded cyhoeddus o NGR 30637 17406 i NGR 30615 17437 i linell sy'n rhedeg o NGR 30637 17406 i NGR 30615 17437 fel y nodir yn yr Atodlen ac fel y dengys ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Mae copi o'r Gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn wedi eu gosod a gellir mynd i'w gweld am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, Bro Morgannwg, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Gellir prynu copïau o'r Gorchymyn a map y Gorchymyn yno am £4.50.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 2 Mawrth 2017 ond os bydd person yn teimlo ei fod wedi'i dramgwyddo gan y Gorchymyn ac yn amau ei ddilysrwydd, neu unrhyw ddarpariaethau sydd wedi'u cynnwys ynddo, ar y sail nad yw o fewn pwerau Deddf Priffyrdd 1980 fel y'i diwygiwyd, neu ar y sail na chydymffurfiwyd ag unrhyw un o ofynion y Ddeddf, fel y'i diwygiwyd, neu unrhyw reoliad a wnaed dan y Ddeddf mewn cysylltiad â'r Gorchymyn, gall, dan baragraff 2 Atodlen 2 y Ddeddf fel y nodir yn mharagraff 5 Atodlen 6 o'r Ddeddf, o fewn 6 wythnos o 23 Mawrth 2017 wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys.

Dyddiedig 23 Mawrth 2017

'Hands off diesel engines!' *says reader*

HERE we go again... Let's all go bashing the private motorist – this time it's the owners of diesel engine cars.

For the most part, the average diesel-powered car is about two litres. It is used maybe one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening. Small fry really.

The local diesel-electric powered trains are started in the morning and are kept running all day, whether on a run or not (*Wikipedia source : the diesel electric trains used locally emit 32,000 tons of nitrogen oxide and 1000 tons of soot annually*).

The intercity trains really belch it out, and they also are kept running all day. These trains are operated whether they are full to capacity or not. It doesn't really matter how many passengers are on board, the fact is, the engine is kept running.

While we are on about passenger numbers, the ghost bus from Cardiff to the airport still uses the same fuel as a commuter bus from Cardiff to Barry. Have you ever wondered about the size of lorry engines – and they use diesel fuel?

OK, the British lorries are subject to emission checks, but what about the lorries from the Continent: are they checked, I wonder.

I am sure we have all seen building sites with dumper trucks, diggers and such like, but this plant is kept running most of the time without even the hint of emission checks.

Did anyone see the news item on television about the open cast coal mine at Merthyr? There was plant running around everywhere carrying high carbon fossil fuel and they, the dump trucks and the diggers, all had diesel engines. The boats that we see going to and from Cardiff, Birdport, and Avonmouth all have really massive engines, which never stop.

Let's also think of the farming community with their tractors, harvesters and generators, or the Forces or the emergency services... the list goes on.

No, Mr Minister of Transport, don't point your finger at the humble motorist with his small diesel car.

DAVE ADAMS, Barry.

Barry Town Mayor's Award

THE Mayor of Barry is inviting the public to nominate someone they consider is worthy of the Mayor's award for services to the community.

There are two categories, adult and youth, and nominees can be drawn from the arts, sport, voluntary work, or any other area.

"If you know someone who has given their time and commitment to the community and feel that they should be considered for this award, please let us know," a spokesperson said.

Nominations should be sent in writing, detailing the reasons why you feel they should be considered, to the Town Mayor, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA to be received no later than Friday, April 14. Successful nominees will be advised on April 28.

For further information, contact Julie Hurd, the Mayor's Secretary, on 01446 704921, or via email at juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

7 YEAR KIA WARRANTY

Gravells.com

GRAVELLS Special Offer

Kia Picanto 1.0 '1' Air 5dr
inc Metallic Paint

ONLY £149 PER MONTH WITH £249 DEPOSIT

Cash price of vehicle	£8712.17	Representative APR	0%
Deposit	£249.00	36 Monthly payments of	£149.00
Amount of credit	£8463.17	1 Final payment of	£3099.17
Total charge for credit	£0.00	Total amount payable	£8712.17

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

KIA
The Power to Surprise

GRAVELLS
Bridgend David Street, CF31 3SA
01656 641 000

Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range of Kia models shown are: Urban 28.2 (10.0) – 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban 43.5 (6.5) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 37.2 (7.6) – 88.3 (3.2). CO2 emissions are 189 – 85g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 31 March 2017. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Offer not available with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Selected annual mileage is 6,000 miles, excess mileage charge 7.5p per mile (+VAT) for the first 5000 miles and at twice that rate thereafter. YOU WILL NOT OWN THE VEHICLE UNTIL ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR.

7 YEAR KIA WARRANTY

Gravells.com

Another GRAVELLS Special Offer

Kia Sportage '2' 1.7 CRDi Diesel

£259.00 A MONTH

& £259.00 INITIAL PAYMENT

BASED ON A 1+47 PERSONAL CONTRACT HIRE AGREEMENT.

KIA
The Power to Surprise

GRAVELLS
Bridgend David Street, CF31 3SA
01656 641 000

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ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

TWENTY FOUR hours after winning the 'Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle' at Fontwell on Saturday aboard the Tim Vaughan-trained *William Money*, Cowbridge's George Blackwell won the opening Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle at Ffos Las on Bernard Llewellyn's *Flanagan's Field*, a 20-1 chance, which came home 16 lengths ahead of the Evan Williams trained *Market Road*.

GLAMORGAN HUNT STEEPLECHASES

The popular Glamorgan Hunt point-to-point steepelchases take place at Uplands Farm, Ystradowen this Saturday and the main event of the day is the Timico Mixed Open race at 3.45pm.

Racing gets under way with the Glamorgan Hunt members' race at 2pm. There will be a parade of hounds during the afternoon.

VALE HORSES AND RIDERS IN FORM AT LLANFRYNACH

The Vale of Glamorgan's Tom David and his younger brother Evan both rode winners at the re-arranged Brecon & Talybont Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Llanfrynach on Sunday.

Tom took the PPORA Club Members Conditions Race on Carmen Goldsworthy's Captain Camelot who won by six lengths from the early leader Tiger Rag and Evan won the Restricted on Blazing Tom who scored by three lengths from the outsider of three Upton Kaddy.

Captain Camelot provided his new handler Carlie Packwood with her first training success and a delighted Mrs Goldsworthy said: "This is a lucky course for me as this is my ninth winner here."

The favourite Tinkers Hill, ridden by Bradley Gibbs, looked beaten when falling four fences from home.

Blazing Tom, owned by Cowbridge's Philip and Ralph Thomas, like High Hatton is trained by former rider of note Jonathan Tudor at Merthyr Mawr.

Jodie Hughes was seen at her best when making all the running in the four horse ladies' open on Kieran Price's 13-year-old bay gelding Bay Central, who won by 11 lengths from Horsham Lad.

"Apart from one mistake he jumped amazingly," said Jodie who having walked the course earlier thought the jumps were a lot stiffer than usual.

Only two of the 12 entries for the opening Confined Race faced the starter and the long odds-on Sir Du Bearn shook off Vanguard and Jo Bagley in the closing stages to win by three lengths in a time which was 12 seconds faster than Jeffrey Bird's High Hatton took in beating his solitary rival Sandynow in the men's open.

High Hatton was partnered by Richard Patrick and will probably be aimed at the Cheltenham Hunters' evening meeting in May.

Eleven went to post for the open maiden race and the nine-year-old Jungle Legend given a good ride by young Ben Jones led four fences from home to score by two lengths from the favourite and early leader Captain Kennit ridden by Bradley Gibbs. Jungle Legend who was a first point-to-point winner for owner Claire Manning is trained by Kate Powell.

The new layout of the course made everything more compact and was excellent for viewing. However, a sign of the times was that whereas in the past there would have been two long rows of bookmakers this time only six gentlemen of the satchels were in attendance.

WINS FOR VALE TRAINERS AT CHEPSTOW

VALE trainers Evan Williams and John Flint both saddled winners at Chepstow recently.

Williams took the opening Faller Refunds Handicap Hurdle with the top weighted *Sutter's Mill* who under Adam Wedge, won by one-and-a-half lengths from the Bernard Llewellyn trained *Filatore*.

John Flint took the closing Best Price Mullins Standard Open National Hunt Flat race with *Amateur* who, ridden by Ian Popham, scored by one-and-a-half lengths from the Jonjo O'Neill-trained *The Flame*.

BRIAN LEE

Llantwit Major & District Darts League update

THE Llantwit Major and District Darts League season entered its 23rd week with the highlights being:

John Pengelly 180, Nick Smith 180, Steve Davie 180, Trevor Jaynes 171, Will Cooke 115 out, Simon Reader 102 out, Steve Cooke 100 out, Simon Reader & Bron Baelz 18 dart leg, Stewart Edwards 18 dart leg, Gary Randall 19 dart leg.

The Kings Head 'A1' put one hand on the league trophy, as they beat second placed Wenvoe Arms 'A' 8-3 in a high scoring encounter.

With the Lamb 'C1' in a seemingly impregnable position at the top of the 'C' League the race is hotting up for second place with a number of top five encounters taking place in the coming weeks.

This week third-placed Lamb 'C2' beat the Shoes St Athan 'C' 6-5 in a match where there was never more than one leg in it.

The gents semi-finals night takes place on Thursday, March 23 at the Rugby Club with the draw for the order of play at 7.45pm with the first match starting at 8pm.

The ladies semi-finals night took place on March 16 and through to the finals on March 30 are: Ladies singles: Julie Cheal v Tanya Daw; Ladies pairs: Julie Cheal/Gaynor Dale v Becky Evans/Laura Hemming; Ladies threes: Julie Cheal/Gaynor Dale/Lyn Butcher v Jean Griffiths/Gill & Beth Theophilus; Mixed pairs: Martin Gaffney/Gaynor Dale v Steve Davie/Tanya Daw; Eddie Meredith: Kings Head 'A1' v Wenvoe Arms 'A'.

DMC

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, March 14 a full programme of league matches was played.

The Edmondes C beat the Edmondes B 5-4; this is the second week running that the league leaders have been beaten.

The Highwayman Inn strengthened their hold on second slot, by beating the Hairy Farmers 6-3, helped by Llanharry defeating the Six Bells Inn 6-3.

However, it looks like Llanharry are now making a late challenge to also become contenders for second spot. The Victoria Inn beat the Red Lion 8-1 and the Edmondes A beat the Farmers Arms 5-4.

This week Noyle Burt became the second player from the Edmondes C to hit a 180 maximum score.

Other notable individual performances were; Rob McCaver (Hairy Farmers) winning a leg in 10 darts. In fact Rob was very unlucky not to complete a 144 three dart out, hitting treble 18 with his first and second dart but his third dart was just on the wrong side of the double 18 wire. Maureen Fleming (Farmers Arms) had an 11 dart finish.

Present league standings, after 20 weeks, are: Edmondes B (126 points), Highwayman Inn (113), Six Bells Inn (110), Llanharry (102), Edmondes A and Edmondes C (96), Hairy Farmers and Victoria Inn (80), Farmers Arms (79) and Red Lion (18).

Next week (Tuesday, March 28) the first rounds of the men's singles knock-out competition will be played; the host of this competition is the Llanharry Workingmen's Club.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul a t cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Ben receives top judo awards!

BEN MOORE, in Year 7 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, attended the recent British Judo Council awards.

He had been shortlisted for British junior Judoka of the year and British squad member of the year.

A spokesperson said: "Much to Ben's astonishment he was rewarded for all of his hard work and achievements and won both categories. Well done Ben!"

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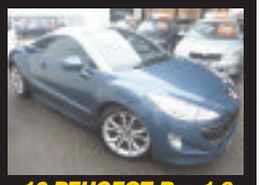

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12 MINI Cooper 1.6
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58 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.9 TDi (105)
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£4,695

60 MERCEDES C180 Sport Auto
In white, 36,000 miles, superb example at
£10,995

61 SKODA Yeti 2.0 Diesel SE+TDi 4x4
In pacific blue, 77,000 miles, 1 owner
£8,995

53 BENTLEY Arnage 6.8 Twin Turbo R Auto In peacock blue with cream hide, 50,000 miles from new, luxury motoring at **£29,995**

11 RANGE Rover Sport 3.0 TDV6 Autobiography Auto In met black with black/cream leather trim, 59,000 miles.....**£26,995**

59 LANDROVER Discovery 3.0 TDV6 HSE Auto 7-Seater In silver with black leather, 59,000 miles, host of extras **£22,995**

11 RANGE ROVER 4.4 TDV8 Vogue Auto In met grey with black leather trim, 84,000 miles ..**£21,995**

61 FORD S-Max Titanium X 2.2 TDCi Sport In midnight sky, 26,000 miles, 7 seater diesel ....**REDUCED TO £16,495**

63 VOLKWAGEN Tiguan 2.0 TDi Match Auto 4x4 In silver, 39,000 mile diesel **£14,995**

96 JAGUAR XK8 Automatic In met-green with cream leather, only 23,000 miles from new, superb example **£14,995**

59 BMW Z4 5 Drive 35i Auto In met-grey with leather trim, 59,000 mile convertable at **£13,995**

13 VOLKSWAGEN Passat CC Blue Motion-Tech 2.0 TDi Automatic In black, only 19,000 miles, superb example at .....**REDUCED TO £12,995**

60 MERCEDES C180 Sport Auto In white, 36,000 miles, superb example at **£10,995**

10 LANDROVER Freelander HSE TD4 2.2 E In silver with black leather, sat-nav, pan-roof **£9,995**

14 VAUXHALL Insignia 1.8 SRi 5-Dr In met silver, 30,000 mile family hatch **£9,495**

64 PEUGEOT 2008 EVTi 1.2 Active Automatic In silver, 22,000 miles **£9,495**

10 PEUGEOT Rcz 1.6 (156) GT In blue with grey leather, 34,000 miles **£9,495**

14 FORD B-Max 1.0 Titanium In blazer blue, 18,000 miles, under ford warranty ....**REDUCED TO £8,995**

62 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.5 DCi Dynamique In met burgundy, 46,000 mile diesel 7-seater....**£8,995**

61 SKODA Yeti 2.0 Diesel SE+TDi 4x4 In pacific blue, 77,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,995**

65 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Limited Edition 3-Dr In red with black roof, 13,905 miles, 1 owner **£8,695**

15 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 TechLine 5-Dr In black, 26,000 mile family hatch **£8,495**

63 NISSAN Juke 1.6 Vis In white, low mileage local example at **£8,495**

62 VOLKSWAGEN Jetta 1.6 Diesel Automatic Blue Motion SE In met-grey, 55,000 miles, 1 owner.....**£8,495**

11 NISSAN Qashqai 1.5 DCi Accenta In met-burgundy, 47,000 miles diesel at **£8,495**

10 FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec Automatic In black, 68,000 miles, diesel 7-seater **£8,495**

14 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi Dynamique Media Nav 5-Dr In silver, 39,000 miles, free road tax..... .....**REDUCED TO £7,995**

13 MINI One 1.6 In red, 31,000 miles, 1 owner with alloys, climate, pepper pack.....**£7,995**

62 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec 140 5-Dr In silver, 53,000 miles, diesel hatch **£7,995**

62 CITROEN DS3 D Sport Plus 1.6 THP In white with black roof, 48,000 miles, full leather trim.....**£7,995**

12 MINI Cooper 1.6 In white silver with black roof, 23,000 miles ..... **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £7,995**

12 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusive Diesel Estate In silver, 43,000 miles.....**£7,995**

09 MAZDA MX5 1.8i Roadster Coupe In true red, 48,000 miles, solid roof convertible **£7,995**

57 MERCEDES SLK 200 Auto In silver with red leather, 72,000 miles, convertible **£7,995**

15 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr In red, 12,000 miles, under Ford warranty **£7,695**

13 PEUGEOT 3008 Aless HDi 5-Dr In met red, 29,000 miles **£7,695**

14 VAUXHALL Adam Glam 1.4 In very berry with cream roof, 25,000 miles, 1 owner, bluetooth, pan roof etc **£7,595**

15 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SRi Ecoflex 3-Dr In black, 23,000 miles **£7,495**

64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZL 3-Dr In black with white roof, 19,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,495**

63 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style-E In encre met with white roof, 52,000 mile diesel hatch, free road tax **£7,495**

62 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Metal 3-Dr In black, 26,000 miles, sporty hatch with leather trim **£7,495**

10 SKODA Yeti 1.2 TSi SE In aqua blue, 46,000 miles .....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,495**

08 BMW 320i M-Sport Coupe In silver, 70,000 miles with alloys a/c etc **£7,495**

63 RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Coupe 'Knight Edition' 40,000 miles, free road tax **£6,995**

63 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr In black, 56,000 miles. 1 owner, free road tax **£6,995**

62 SKODA Octavia 1.6 TDi SE Auto Estate In silver, 70,000 mile diesel at.....**£6,995**

61 FORD C-max 1.6 TDCi Titanium In silver, 69,000 miles, diesel practical hatch **£6,995**

60 PEUGEOT 5008 Sport 1.6 Diesel 7-Seater In met-grey, 58,000 miles **£6,995**

64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ3 3-Dr In white, one owner, 24,000 miles.....**£6,795**

13 PEUGEOT 208 1.6 Diesel Active E-HDi 5-Dr In silver, 36,000 miles, free road tax **£6,595**

11 VOLKWAGEN Golf 1.6 TDi Bluemotion 5-Dr In silver, 76,000 miles, diesel at **£6,495**

07 NISSAN X-trail 2.0 Diesel Avent T2 In black, 90,000 miles, full leather.....**£6,495**

64 PEUGEOT 108 Active 3-Dr In red, 23,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax **£6,295**

12 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVTi TD 5-Dr Automatic In met-red, 60,000 miles **£5,995**

62 SKODA Rapid SE TSi 5-Dr In white, 59,958 miles, very nice example at **£5,995**

61 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style In white with black roof, 73,000 miles, diesel, free road tax **£5,995**

08 JAGUAR X-Type 2.2 Diesel 'S' Auto In black, 54,000 miles, full leather etc **£5,995**

11 CITROEN C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi Exclusive In met-grey, 63,000 miles, diesel **£5,695**

10 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.6 TDCi SE 5-Dr In met blue, 74,000 miles, diesel hatch **£5,495**

54 VOLVO XC90 D5 2.3 SE AWD Auto In silver with black leather, diesel, 7 seater 4x4 .....**£5,495**

12 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr In black, 76,000 mile diesel at **£4,995**

11 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr In met grey, 41,000 miles with air-con etc **£4,995**

61 RENAULT Clio 1.6 GT Line VVTi Automatic In blue, 16,000 miles, with sat-nav ....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

60 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr In silver, 47,000 miles family hatch **£4,995**

10 FORD Focus 1.6 Titanium 5-Dr In silver, 56,000 miles, high spec family hatch at **£4,995**

09 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 CDTi (130) SE 5-Dr In silver, 83,000 miles, diesel hatch **£4,995**

11 MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 5-Dr In spirited green, 74,000 miles, very nice throughout ....**REDUCED BY £300 TO £4,695**

58 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.9 TDi (105) 5-Dr Match In met grey, 70,000 miles, diesel **£4,695**

58 VOLKSWAGEN Passat 2.0 HDi Sport In black, 85,000 miles, very nice diesel at **£4,695**

57 MINI Cooper 1.6 Chilli In white/black roof, 50,000 miles, one owner.....**£4,695**

60 VAUXHALL Astra 1.7 Diesel Exclusive 5-Dr In silver, 81,000 miles **£4,495**

59 SKODA Fabia '3' Automatic 1.6 5-Dr In met blue, 50,000 miles..... **£4,295**

08 VOLKSWAGEN Eos 2.0 Convertable In black, 79,000 miles, 4 seater with solid roof **£4,295**

60 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Ecoflex Energy 3-Dr In red, 52,000 miles, one owner **£3,995**

60 CITROEN C1 VTR+ 5-Dr In red, 46,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£3,995**

59 MAZDA 3 Sport 2.0 5-dr In black, sat-nav a/c etc, fantastic value **£3,995**

09 SEAT Ibiza 1.2S 3-Dr In nayara blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance..... **£3,995**

56 MINI One Convertable In silver, 85,000 miles with pepper pack, a/c, heated seats etc **£3,995**

58 TOTOYA Yaris 1.3 TR 5-Dr In red, 60,000 miles, very nice example **£3,795**

11 RENAULT Clio 1.5 Diesel Expression 3-Dr In met-blue, 53,000 miles, £20 road tax **£3,695**

10 HYUNDAI i10 Comfort 1.2 5-Dr In silver, 57,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,495**

06 SAAB 93 Linear 2.0 Convertable (150) In black with cream leather, 66,000 miles..... **£3,495**

59 FORD KA 1.2 Style (New shape) In lime, 44,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,295**

57 RENAULT Megane 1.5 DCi Dynamique 5-Dr In silver, 49,000 miles, diesel hatch..... **£2,695**

62 CITROEN DS3 D Sport Plus 1.6 THP
In white with black roof, 48,000 miles, full leather trim
£7,995

59 BMW Z4 5 Drive 35i Auto
In met grey with leather trim, 59,000 mile convertable at
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53 BENTLEY Arnage 6.8 Twin Turbo R Auto
In peacock blue with cream hide, 50,000 miles, luxury motoring
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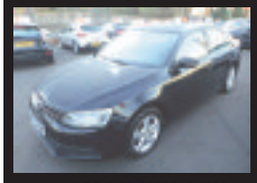

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Llantwit Major under-12s reach Blues Cup final!

ON Sunday, Llantwit Major Warriors travelled to Merthyr Tydfil's The Wern stadium, to play their Blues Cup semi-final against Llandaff RFC under-12s.

All players (and parents!) were extremely excited and a little bit nervous before the match started. It was a fantastic atmosphere at The Wern ground, all the players came running out of the tunnel to music with concentration on their faces, all ready for a good game.

As seems to be the Warriors' trait, they were a bit unsettled at the beginning of the game, but it didn't take long for them to settle into their stride.

They were all communicating with each other about set moves that they had been practicing at training.

It all started coming together about 10 minutes into the first half, when the forwards worked hard to get the ball close enough to the line for Logan to burst through and settle everyone's nerves with the first try of the match.

The Warriors continued to work hard, fighting for the ball at the breakdown to secure possession. It was again the forwards who took the ball close to the line, and Dylan W was just short but managed to offload to Tom to score our second try of the match. Rhys G converted to make the score 12-0.

Llandaff's players were strong and played some lovely set pieces, but the Warriors determination and strong defence kept them away from their line.

The next play saw the forwards work the ball out of a maul and pass it through the backs and out to Sam A on the wing, who made a break to score a try, finishing the first half 17-0 to the Warriors.

The second half started with Llandaff attacking and the Warriors' defence had to work hard.

Llandaff broke through the defensive line to score an excellent running try, which was quickly converted.

Llantwit Warriors fought back with some great rucking, and eventually Caleb took the ball over the line to score, which Rhys G converted.

It was through some fine ball handling skills from the Warriors back line, that Rhys G made a sharp break and ran over the line to score the last try of the match.

It was a fantastic effort from all the players, and a much-deserved 29-7 win.

Next stop Cardiff Arms Park on May 7 for the Blues Cup final against Treorchy RFC.

Squad: Rhys Davies, Logan Pike, Dylan Wright, Iwan Thomas, Caleb Beare, Tomas Roberts, Aneurin Price, Sam Harry, Owen Hill, Olly Williams, Sam Alexander, Rhys Greenaway, Ben Godfrey, Dylan Morgan, Josh Wakeham, Jamie Jenkins, Corey Lougher, Charlie Hurdman, Evan Harris, Griff Davies, Kyle Griffiths and Cristian Parry.

SR

Female-only activity scheme proving popular

Coun Gwyn John (left) joins participants at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

A TWO-HOUR taster session hosted by the Vale Council's Sports and Play Development team has enabled Vale girls to try their hand at a variety of sport-based activities.

Taking place at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, the session introduced them to badminton, street dance, football, and touch rugby.

Informal, social and involving music, the event formed part of the council's Girls on the Move initiative – part of the 'Active Young People' scheme – to encourage them to exercise more frequently.

It has engaged over 160 girls since starting last year, with 'glowminton' in Barry and a running group in Penarth. Glowminton uses UV shuttlecocks, nets, neon wristbands and body paint while playing badminton to music.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for visible, leisure and regulatory services, said: "We have seen some encouraging results so far, with an increase in participation. By listening to what our young residents want, we have been able to plan fun, inclusive, events that continue to engage girls across the Vale."

The Sport and Play team, in partnership with Welsh Cycling and Breeze Rides, are set to host a female-only cycling group on Saturday, April 8.

Taking place at Cosmeston Park, between 10am-12pm, the group is aimed at beginners aged 10 and over. Informal coaching will take place before the ride around Cosmeston, so that participants become more confident on their bikes. Participants are required to take their own bikes and helmets.

Big games for Cowbridge RFC

AFTER the drama and ultimate disappointment of the Six Nations, Cowbridge are back in league and cup action this weekend.

The youth take on Pontarddulais at Llandarcy Sports Ground, kick off 2.30pm, in the semi-final of the National Youth Cup. A massive achievement already but let's hope the run will continue.

There is a bus leaving the club at 12 noon returning at 6pm, all support would be very welcome. Good luck boys!

The first XV travel to Tonyrefail, who are three places below us but have had three victories in their last four matches – so a big game for both teams.

The following weekend the firsts are home against Caerau Ely.

RK/RV

Llantwit spring into action on Saturday

AS spring has now officially begun, Llantwit Major RFC will be hoping for warmer weather and firmer grounds to suit their running style of rugby, starting on Saturday as they travel to take on Old Penarthians in the league.

This will again be a difficult encounter for the Llantonians, as Old Pens are a team who, despite sitting just above the relegation places in the points table, always run teams close and have received plaudits across the league for their exciting attacking play.

Llantwit should, however, be well rested after another enforced break due to the finale of the Six Nations championship, and be fully aware of the danger they face in underestimating their opponents, as they only just managed to win the first encounter 33–27 earlier in the season – kick off is at 2.30pm.

AH

Tennis Club members brave the weather for a pre-season clean up

EVEN the mist, wind and rain didn't stop Llantwit Major Tennis Club members braving the elements early last Saturday morning to do a pre-season clear up of the tennis courts.

Trees and brambles were cut back, weeds dug up and the fourth court, which has been unusable in recent years, was brushed down by willing volunteers.

All that's left to do is reline the courts and put up some new nets and there will be four fully functioning courts ready for the new season. Many thanks to all members who helped.

If you are interested in joining Llantwit Major Tennis Club or would like more information about our coaching sessions for children and adults go to *https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LlantwitMajorTennisClub*

Events for your diary: Saturday, April 1, 10am-12 noon kids free tennis festival, an opportunity for children to try out tennis with our coaches for free; Saturday, April 8, 2pm-4pm, rescheduled mixed doubles fun day, join us for some mixed doubles fun, you don't need a partner pairs will be drawn out of a hat.

VS

Brace for Brace

DAVID BRACE, of the Dunraven Stud, Bridgend, had a double at the Buckfastleigh Point-To-Point Steeplechases with *Bracho* in the open maiden race and *Dunraven Royal* in the intermediate race.

Both were ridden by Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft.

Extravaganza of junior rugby in Cowbridge!

COWBRIDGE residents who fancy getting back in touch with the joys of simply playing rugby for fun are invited to a festival this weekend featuring 30 clubs, 101 teams and 1,200 young players!

There won't be a dodgy head impact assessment in sight, and constantly collapsing front rows will be nowhere to be seen!

Cowbridge RFC mini and junior section have arranged the rugby extravaganza, which will be hosted at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Andrew Lord of Cowbridge RFC told The GEM: "Clubs from around Wales are sending teams to play in different age groups, so if anyone in town wants to see if they can spot some stars of the future, please came along."

Members of the Cardiff Blues are coming along to support the event too, and the programme is as follows:

Saturday, March 25, 10am to 2.30pm. Teams of under-7s, under-9s and under-11s will be in action.

On ***Sunday, March 26***, also from 10am to 2.30pm, under-8s, under-10s, under-12s and under-14s will be taking the field.

The club hopes that, once the rugby is over, hungry young rugby players (and their families) will be heading into Cowbridge to refuel.

Cowbridge bowlers toured Torquay

COWBRIDGE Bowling Club have just returned from a happy week's bowling in Torquay.

We stayed at the Toorak Hotel, which is in a complex of four hotels, with indoor bowls, ballroom, swimming pool, games room (snooker, pool, table tennis, 10-pin bowling and lots of games machines), so it was a very busy, sporting week for us oldies!

We comprised 39 bowlers, (and three social members) and we had two teams of 16 bowlers with reserves for every game.

Each team (red and blue) played four games in total with some successes, and overall, the blues just beat the reds.

On the whole it's a fun bowling holiday and we play the same teams every year, so it is great to meet up again. The weather was kind to us again, and we were able to get out and about and take in the sea air!

Our outdoor season begins on April 1, and anyone who wishes to try bowling will be very welcome.

If interested, please ring Norman Wilkinson (development officer) on 01446 773282.

NJW

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY

FRANCE 20 - WALES 18

STEADFAST DEFENCE, BUT QUESTIONS REMAIN OVER ATTACK

The 20-minute French farce cannot obscure the failings that are holding Wales back

Photos by HUW EVANS AGENCY.

ABOVE: 6 out of 6... Leigh Halfpenny, the only Welsh name on the scoreboard, was in superb kicking form. ABOVE, right: where the damage was done.

ABOVE: George North complains he was bitten on the arm – the evidence was later ruled as "inconclusive." LEFT: Despair on Welsh faces as the reality of a third defeat sinks in.

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

AS the sound and fury of rugby's version of the Longest Day subsides, and gives way to cooler reflection, Saturday's farcical climax to the RBS Six Nations should not obscure the wider picture for Wales that goes beyond the controversial 20-18 defeat in Paris.

Amid chaotic scenes, as normal full time approached, embattled Wales were clinging to a five-point lead at 18-13, but under constant siege on their own line from the juggernaut French pack, when 80 minutes then stretched to an astonishing 100 minutes.

Wales, who had already lost both first choice second rows, Jake Ball and skipper Alun Wyn Jones to injury, at one time were down to 14 men with a player in the bin and were in desperate straits.

Confusion reigned, with players coming and going in bewildering fashion, and hard-pressed referee, Wayne Barnes, awarded Les Bleus a stream of penalties and 12 successive scrums five metres out – Wales were fortunate not to concede a penalty try that would have mercifully brought the long drawn-out proceedings to a close.

Overwhelming French power finally told and typically brave Welsh resistance was finally broken with a converted try, to end the game with 20 extra minutes on the clock – but in dubious circumstances, with the Welsh camp crying 'foul!'

France had brought back on to the field their first choice tight head prop (who had earlier been substituted), the team doctor claiming his replacement needed to go off for a head injury assessment, although the latter had already told the referee he was not injured, but had a sore back!

It prompted a furious reaction from caretaker Wales head coach Robert Howley, who told the post-match media conference: *"Integrity in our game is pretty important. Player welfare is equally important…(but)… what happened in the last 10 minutes of that game shouldn't ever happen again on an international rugby field… The process leading up to the change of the French tighthead – the way that occurred – we love our game too much to have those decisions.*

"It's hugely disappointing, the process that occurred prior to him warming up before going back on. One of their coaches went outside the technical area, had a word with their doctor and within a minute of that, he went on during a break in play and took their tighthead off…it's outside the laws of the game," he insisted.

Asked if he would call it 'cheating', Howley replied – *"No, I just question the integrity of the decision that was made. If you want to call it that, it's up to you…"*

The Welsh camp, rightly, had no quarrel with referee Barnes – "*who had listened to a medic"* – over the decision – but it was too early to say if they would be taking the matter further. In fact, Six Nations officials later revealed they were reviewing the issue.

Before the kick-off, Howley had admitted that players and management had been "hurt" by weeks of withering criticism over his risk-averse team selection, but had obviously felt vindicated by the hard-fought 22-9 win over Ireland in again not making changes to the line-up in Paris: *"France have probably been one of the best sides in the championship, but this group of players have been there. We've won over in France before… We know how to win there,"* he had asserted confidently.

However, almost from the outset, alarm bells rang – the home team roaring out and establishing early dominance up front, particularly at the scrum, and then racing into a 10-0 lead inside the first quarter, through a converted try and penalty.

Wales slowly began to regroup and attempted a breakout, prompted by outside half Dan Biggar, but the promising move was thwarted when a pass meant to free danger man George North down the right wing, was intercepted by a defender's flailing arm, resulting in a yellow card.

Despite their dominance, France were unable to make further inroads into the steadfast Welsh defence and frustration led to three first half penalties (one from over halfway) for the immaculate Leigh Halfpenny to keep his side in touch, with a one-point deficit (10-9) at the changeover.

Welsh hopes suffered a blow when skipper Alun Wyn Jones was injured and later forced to leave the field and Wales came under a renewed onslaught, one threatening attack breaking down when a final pass went into touch.

The powerhouse pack then encamped on the Wales try line in a penalty-forcing rehearsal for what was to come in the dramatic later stages, but on this occasion they were repelled. Suddenly, though, the Welsh scrum reasserted itself and Halfpenny landed another huge howitzer from halfway, and followed it with his fifth successful attempt, to increase the lead to 15-10 – only for Wales to concede a penalty directly in front of their posts.

Not to be outdone, Halfpenny stepped up to land his sixth and final penalty kick to give Wales a five-point lead at 18-13, with just 10 minutes of normal time remaining.

Little did we know then of the long drawn out drama that was to follow before the French pack finally bludgeoned its way over for the converted touchdown that sent Wales to the bottom of the RBS Six Nations table, with just two wins out of five and only hapless whipping boys Italy below them.

As Alun Wyn Jones said afterwards – *"It's just not good enough."*

The public inquest is likely to be prolonged, with the Welsh coaches, defence guru Sean Edwards excepted (yet strangely he is the one without a seat on the Lions' tour plane this summer!) braced for the inevitable backlash – with the style and substance of Welsh attacking play the main focus for continuing, widespread disquiet.

On Saturday, try-less Wales were barely able to launch a meaningful attack against opponents who were big on brawn, but whose legs were hardly tested for stamina in the wide open spaces.

In fact, the whole campaign had mustered only eight touchdowns, two more than hapless Italy and half that of England, who under Eddie Jones have revelled in a new, more expansive style.

Crisis may be far too strong a word, but the WRU could yet regret allowing the bulk of their coaching group to spend time in New Zealand, rather than focus on the underlying problems at home that continue to hold back this talented squad's development.